THE INDEPENDENT

For good or ill, history is made







As Gerry Adams visits Number 10 yesterday, a former paratrooper (top left) and Sinn Fein supporter make their views known Photographs (clockwise): Absolute/David Rose/Dave Thomson

Keep the peace door open

BY DAVID

MCKITTRICK

about the unprecedented project of

bringing the entire republican movement

At first this collided with the old Tory

and Unionist belief that the Irish ques-

tion was basically insoluble and that tak-

ing risks like this was futile since the

republican leopard would never change

its spots. Yesterday's encounter had its

critics, of course, but it gave rise to lit-

tle sense of a fierce outcry, outside me-

Irish nationalist creature, and was thus

instinctively opposed by Unionists. But

as the months have gone by buzzwords

such as peace, talking and dialogue have

taken root within the Unionist commu-

nin too. First the businessmen, then some

clerics, then even the paramilitary groups

- some of whom have already been to

The peace process began life as an

into politics.

became the first Prime Minister since Lloyd George in 1921 to welcome a Sinn Fein leader to 10 Downing Street when he met a delegation led by Gerry Adams. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, reports

on 53 minutes in Downing Street that Mr Adams called 'a good moment in history'.

The Prime Minister vesterday sat down across the Cabinet table from the former chief of staff of the IRA and told him: "May I look you in the eye and hear you say you are committed to peaceful means?"

Six years earlier, John Major's Cabinet had dived for cover under the table during an IRA mortar attack. The risks of the meeting were not lost on Mr Blair and Mr Adams, nor was the sense of history. After walking through the front door of Downing Street, the Sinn Fein delegation waited in an anteroom decorated with portraits of past prime ministers. Lloyd George, Balfour and Gladstone, all of whom, Mr Adams reminded Mr Blair in the talks, had tried and failed to resolve

the hish question. Michael Collins, the last Sinn Fein loader to have crossed the threshold of Number Ten, in 1921, was assassinated a year after signing a deal

partition, which Mr Adams said was "unfinished business".

Martin Mr Adams, McGuinness, and five Sinn Fein members arrived 10 minutes early for their meeting in two red Toyota people-carriers, to be greeted by cheers from supporters and jeers from opponents. As Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness stepped inside, they were handed a Christmas

Several cabinet ministers threw them-

selves under the table during the last re-

publican visitation to Downing Street.

Yesterday was a happier, bener day, a

conspicuous advance on the times when

the republican intention was destruction

Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness

and their associates went in by the front

door, clutching nothing more lethal than

In receiving the Sinn Fein delegation

Tony Blair must have believed he was talk-

ing to some of the leaders of the IRA.

for he has said Sinn Fein and the IRA

are inextricably linked. He held no illu-

sions, in other words, about the hands

He was talking to them because he.

like the Irish government and John

Hume of the SDLP subscribes to the con-

cept of transition. He clearly believes that

even a movement with roots so deeply

implanted in the use of force can be

pragmatism and imparience with the old

stalemates, some from a cool judgement

that the Adams leadership is serious

Some of this springs from new Labour

and assassination.

briefcases and filofaxes.

what he was shaking.

brought into politics.

with Lloyd George which led to card bearing a dove of peace by Mowlam, the Northern Ire-Sinn Fein leaders, but it was Rita Restorick, mother of the last soldier killed in Northern Ireland.

There was a handshake between Mr Blair and Mr Adams before the Prime Minister showed Mr Adams, Mr McGuinness and their delegation to the Cabinet room, where they used first names over cups of tea. Mr Blair was flanked by officials and Mo

land Secretary, who pointed out that it was "not helpful" for the Sinn Fein leader to have wished "good luck" to the IRA killer who escaped from the Maze Prison on the eve of the talks.

Across the table, they faced delegation which included some with criminal records for terrorist offences. There was a symbolic importance in the meeting. Mr Blair told the more important that they were working for a settlement. If there was a return to violence they "would lose the best prospect we have had for a generation and there can be no going back to that."

Mr Adams had responded to the Prime Minister's challenge by saying Sinn Fein had signed up to the six Mitchell principles, which included a

Downing Street - slipped into peace

Now David Trimble, leader of the Ul-

ster Unionists, regularly finds himself in

the same room as Gerry Adams at the

Stormont talks, And now Gerry Adams

finds himself talking to Tony Blair in

Number 10, facing the British prime min-

to be found in the foresecuble future: any

conceivable agreement will still leave

Northern Ireland as part of the United

Kingdom, Ergo, the sceptics say, the IRA

to gain from the process; a sense that they

can make considerable interim advances,

a sense that they may yet ultimately reach

them the moon, will not have attempt-

ed to kid them that their dreams will all

be answered. He may well be content if

he has holstered their sense that the peace

process can work and that politics can

achieve more for them than that mortar

attack, and all the other acts of violence.

Tony Blair will not have promised

their goal, a sense of self-esteem.

Yet there is still much for republicans

One key fact is that Irish unity is not

ister and also facing some facts.

will go back to violence.

process mode.

they see Sinn Fein coming into Number 10 Downing Street." Mr Adams said: "We come from a small island of 5 million people of grief and pain and division over the centuries. We want to see it ending ... This was a good moment in history."

and exclusively peaceful means

of resolving political issues", to

gain entry to the cross-party

talks, Later Mr Blair defended

the meeting: "What I think is

worth doing is taking risks,

even with people who in prior

times have been engaged in ac-

tivity we have all condemned.

It's important to take those risks

to give us that chance. I know

it's difficult for people when

The Sinn Fein team raised a shopping-list of causes - demands for a public inquiry into Bloody Sunday; release of republican prisoners; removal of hi-tech observation posts in Armagh; abolition of Britain's legislative claim to sovereignty over Ulster, A member of the team said decommissioning was never mentioned but detailed talks over the future of the Province will continue in Stormont. After yesterday's talks, which both sides described as "positive", the peace

process remains on track. Mr Adams urged Mr Blair to press David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, to agree to a face-to-face meeting with the Sinn Fein president.

Mr Adams said such a meeting with Mr Trimble would mark a further historic step, but Downing Street conceded that was one request which was outside Mr Blair's power.

INSIDE TODAY

Suzanne Moore: So who is this bitch you're smacking up, exactly?



Cannabis: The Independent on **Sunday conference** NEWS/3



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they need them. When that

happens, the consequences can

be embarrassing and sometimes

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Kyoto takes first step
Representatives of the world's nations in Kyoto have agreed on a decisive step to begin tackling the threat of man-made climate change.

TODAY'S NEWS

However, it will take about six years before it will be possible to judge whether the developed countries which have agreed to cut their annual output of six key global warming gases - are actually going to deliver.

The biggest doubt is over whether the United States. with its anti-Kyoto majority in Congress, will see it through Pages 9 and 19

Foster toy 'hurtful'
Adoption agencies yesterday called for a virtual reality toy.

which tries to represent the raising of a foster child, to be removed from shops.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said they were appalled at the toy, called Kimoko. saying that it was "insensitive" and "hurtful" to children who had been fostered or adopted. Children who play with Kimoko can feed her, educate her, play with her and discipline her if she is naughty. When Kimoko's IQ reaches a certain level she is adopted. Page 3

MPs forecast big revolt

Labour left-wingers were predicting a new and even bigger revolt over disability benefits last night after 47 MPs voted against plans to cut lone parents' payments. Page 7.

Cook heads for races

Robin Cook has set a priority for his first visit to the Chinese mainland as Foreign Secretary. Officials have been told that on the Hong Kong leg of the trip, their boss must have his night at the Happy Valley race track. Page II

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X COLUMN ONE

Why women have a higher order orgasm

The brain, as any right-thinking person knows, is the most important sex organ. Now doctors think they know why.

The proof comes, in part, from a 44 year old woman with an unusual medical problem. She would be shopping, doing the housework, or listening to the radio when, doctors from the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh report, "she would suddenly become aware of an internal, ascending feeling indistinguishable from an orgasm".

The organes, which lasted up to a minute, were uniquited, unexpected and unwelcome. She had them, on average, once a fortnight for three years. On several occasions they happened when she was driving and she had to pull over and stop until she had calmed down.

Once she was sitting listening to an "emotional" radio play with her sister, when she suffered an episode. On this occasion her left hand started jerking, she collapsed and momentarily blacked out. That was enough

The woman; a divorcee with children, was embarrassed by her symptoms and it took some delicate questioning to eke them out of her. She



Mind games: Meg Ryan lets Billy Crystal into the secret of the female orgasm in the film 'When Harry Met Sally'

insisted the orgasms had no definite triggers and were neither pleasurable nor satisfying. The only due to their cause was a sudden severe headache lasting several days she had suffered two years earlier.

A brain scan revealed a deformed artery in the right temporal pole of her brain. Dr Paul Reading, her neurologist, described it as a type of "vascular birthmark". It had probably ruptured, causing the headache, and the resulting scarring had triggered epilepsy, he said. This in turn led to the orgasms because the area of the brain where the damage occurred is known to be linked with sexual sensations.

Twenty previous eases have been reported of epileptic seizures which triggered the sensation of orgasm, all in women, and all had a structural abnormality in the same area. Dr Reading said: "We know from cases like this where the orgasm centre is in the brain - at least in women."

Only one case is known of orgasmic seizures in a man and the location of the abnormality in that case - in the hypothalamus, the lower-order vegetative part of the brain which controls basic functions such as hormone production - suggests male orgasms have a different genesis. Could this explain why intelligent mental activity is a more important

ingredient of sex for women than for men? Dr Reading was cautious. "It underlines the difference between them," he said. The woman was prescribed carbamazapine, a drug for epilepsy, and

has led a satisfactorily quieter life since. — Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor

CONTENTS **Features** News **Obituaries** Health Leader, letters **Politics** Environment Comment 20-24 Business News Shares Hong Kong 25-28 World news Sport The Eye, 29 EU summit Crossword The Eye, 30 Weather World news The Eye, 31-32 TV & Radio Arts news

PEOPLE



Red card: The First Lady found fame failed to save her at the University Club

Hillary gets the boot from Manhattan's posh club

It has been 10 years since the membership of the august University Club in midtown Manhattan voted to admit women. But as one member of the fairer sex can attest, some of its staff apparently still haven t

The person is question, however, probably will say nothing about her little contretemps with the club's stewards on Wednesday, which ended with both her and her female friend being ejected onto a sleety Fifth Avenue. That is because she is the First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Happily, though, the First Lady's companion is paid not to be coy. She was Cindy Adams, gossip columnist extraordinaire of the New York Post. Thus, the whole incident was trumpeted across the paper's pages yesterday.

"KICKED OUT" blared the giant frontpage headline, "Stuffy Manhattan club boots First Lady." Beneath that, in slightly smaller print, the self-serving adjunct: "Old coots tossed me out too, says Post's Cindy Adams.

The club, founded 132 years ago by graduates of Harvard, Yale and Columbia universities, refused all comment yesterday. The First Lady's press office in Washington stopped short of denying the tale, however. "Maybe it's something that has been blown a bit out of proportion." a spokeswoman offered.

Apparently, it began with Ms Adams taking out her mobile phone while waiting for the First Lady

to show. An irritated "sculpture" - her term for a club official - approached and testily informed her

that cellphones were banned from the premises. But it was after the First Lady plus aides had arrived and the group was getting down to serious chat-

ter that the steward really got cross. "We were all gaily settled into a few minutes of girltalk when the sculpture loomed." Ms Adams writes. "Lumbering across the divide, he bore down on us. He stood over us - Hillary and I were side by side, sunk deep into the couch - and in a thundering voice he bellowed: This is not permitted. We have rules here. We will not tolerate this."

Exactly what crime the happy due had committed is not made clear to readers. But perhaps that's because it was never clear to Cindy either. "We didn't know what 'this' was. Was it being women, was it being noisy, what?"

It made no difference when Ms Adams tried to press home to the steward the identity of her companion. He responded summarily: "This is not acceptable behaviour. You will have to leave."

That was when Mrs Clinton decided that a hint had become a clear order to leave. Abruptly standing, she said to Ms Adams, "Let's go". And they did.

Never mind. At least back home Hillary can expect to get respect from the newest recruit to the White House: the First Puppy, name still uncertain. — David Usborne

C4 returns Helen Shapiro to top of the pops

der into a "girl on top" in a new . UK tour. documentary, but the diminutive singer is still threatening to sue the

Shapiro, 51, is furious about nublished Channel 4 programme notes for Brit Girls - One Hit Wonders describing ber shining "brightly but briefly" in the Sixties.

The star, who had number one hits with "You Don't Know" and "Walkin' Back To Happiness" in 1961 plus a string of other chart entries and currently has five alburns on release, is supported by actors' union Equity. She fears the show, to be broadcast on Decem-

Channel 4 has turned singer He- ber 20, will affect sales of her new sociated with people who had one len Shapiro from a one hit won- album and forthcoming 50-date hit and fell into obscurity. Helen

> Channel 4 changed its programme notes and retitled the documentary Girls On Top after Ms Shapiro complained about her inclusion in the series. The notes described her as "famously written off at the age of 15".

But the originals appeared in two national newspapers, on the

Internet and in a listings magazine. Her husband and manager John Williams said: "This is doing tremendous harm to Helen's career and we believe it is a clear defamation regardless of what is now broadcast, "She is being as-

has never stopped working.

"Helen had two number one hits and her gospel album has sold over 45,000 copies. She hardly died a death by 1962. A Channel 4 spokesman said:

"It is our understanding that the issue has been settled." Girls on Top also includes Mil-

lie Small, the Jamaican singer who had a hit with "My Girl Lollipop". PP Arnold who sang the "First Cut is the Deepest" and Billy Davies, who had a hit with "Tell

- Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

UPDATE

TRANSPORT

Britons cling to the driving seat

The public's obsession with the motorcar continues unabated, despite ministers' pleas to get out of the driving seat and on to public transport.

The latest survey, from Equifax, a credit service, shows that three out of four motorists said they were against the government proposals. Only three in ten people believed that more efficient trains and buses would mean fewer cars on the road. The car capitals of Britain, where households have more than one vehicle in the driveway, were Guildford, where residents crave bigger, brasher models such as BMW and Mercedes, Hemel Hempstead, Reduill, Slough and Kingston-upon-Thames. Politically, transport could be a bomb the Government does not wish to defuse. In doing so, it would need to tackle car-use in such newly won Labour strongholds as Stevenage in Hertfordshire, placed eighth in the car-capital table. - Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

preren

*Labour's

ne to aid of

SOCIETY

Women caught in poverty trap

Women continue to face a life of "poverty", receiving just half of men's average incomes, according to a report today.

The Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) said that women aged over

40 received less than half of men's income, but did not qualify for social security benefits in many cases. Women's lower pay made it harder for them to safeguard their income when out of work and those with caring responsibilities are further penalised because if they take a career break to look after a member of their family, it is difficult for them to make adequate pension arrangements, said the report. "At the moment, women with caring responsibilities bear the brunt of the mismatch between their work patterns and the benefit system," said Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the EOC

NORTHERN TRELAND

Army's lost guns go to paramilitaries

Of 47 British army weapons lost, stolen or otherwise "unaccounted for in Northern Ireland, almost a third are thought to have ended up with kyalist or republican paramilitaries, it was revealed yesterday.

The figures, which include handguns, rifles, and machine guns, were disclosed in a written answer from John Reid, of the Ministry of Defence; to Labour MP Kevin McNamara. Dr Reid discloses that of the figures available, eight weapons were "believed to have fallen in the hands of "republican paramilitaries, while six were thought to have ended up with loyalists.

Call for cash to help fund civil cases

The Consumers Association today calls for a legal fund to be set up for

people who are deterred from litigation because of the expense. The Contingency Legal Aid Fund would pay for someone's costs if they lost a legal action, providing they agreed in advance that if they won, a slice of their damages would be paid to subsidise others. Such a fund would help meet the feared gap under proposals by the Lord Chancellor to remove legal aid for all civil cases involving damages or compensation. In particular the fund could help low-income applicants bring important test cases. The association's lawyer, Alison Lindley, said if the Lord Chancellor's department failed to consider the issue it would be a "missed opportunity"

■ Contingency Legal Aid Fund, Consumers Association, PO Box 44, Hertford X, SGI4 1SH

- Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Sweden (kroner)

Turkey (lira)

USA (\$)

Switzerland (francs)

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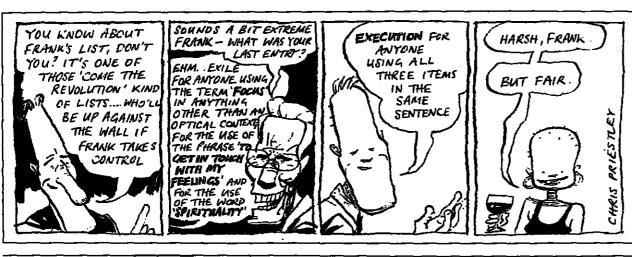
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Christmas Day December

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like it honest..."

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3/NEWS

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT



William Hague's Udaipur romance, plus Angela Bulloch's photo diary of the Turner Prize ISM, THE SATURDAY MAGAZINE



Melt in the **Maldives TIME OFF**

The true lottery odds YOUR MONEY

Complete guide to the week **THE EYE**

Conference calls for change in the law on cannabis



Weed worship: Participants at the debate in London yesterday make known their views on the use of cannabis

debated decriminalising cannabis. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, observes that as they did. 200 miles up the MI, lottery millionaire Colin Sampson discovered how the law works in practice.

Scientific experts, MS sufferers

and weed worshippers yesterday

The Queen Elizabeth II Centre at Westminster, where the Independent on Sunday conference was being held, is a non-smoking building. So perhaps it was appropriate that the keenest cannabis users had brought hash brownies instead.

Nearly 700 people attended yesterday's meeting - described as the first conference to "openly debate" whether cannabis should be legalised. Delegates ranged from soberly suited doctors and nurses to imaginatively attired hippies and the exotically named Free Rob Cannabis, who changed his name by deed poll to make his point.

The vast majority of delegates had the same aim: a change in the law, whether for civil liberties or for therapeutic purposes. And one of the main points repeatedly made was that the law is strongly enforced in some places whereas in other areas police turn a blind eye.

Colin Sampson would probably raise a wry smile at this. Mr Sampson won £5.4m on the National Lottery a year ago but was in a Sheffield court yesterday admitting possession of cannabis worth £600, and a cannabis plant. He was given a conditional discharge for two years and ordered to pay £50 costs

His solicitor, George Tierney, told Sheffield magistrates that the drug was for Mr Sampson's own use and that, had he not been a lottery millionaire, he would probably have escaped with a caution. "It's fairly true to say that if this defendant still lived on the Stradbroke estate with 28 chil-Photograph: Brian Harris dren in a council house, working as he al-

ways had, he would not be here and the subject of media attention," he said.

Mr Sampson said later that his lottery win and the publicity that followed had been the trigger for his drugs use. "Although I cannot excuse my illegal acts, the main cause of my unhappiness and subsequent recourse to the use of cannabis has been the unsolicited and unwanted media attention that I have attracted," he said.

Speaking at the conference, Mike Goodman, director of Release, the civil rights organisation for drug users, said a million people will be guilty of cannabis related offences by the millennium if present rates continued. "People should have the right to make decisions over their own lives providing they do not harm others," he said.

Mr Goodman was one of nine speakers, including Professor John Strang, director of the National Addiction Centre, Body Shop founder Anita Roddick, and Professor Colin Blakemore, president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Although debating a drug best known for its relaxing qualities, the discussion grew heated, with cries of "Freedom!' and "Skin up!" as strange smells wafted across the audience.

Nigel Evans, Conservative MP and former chairman of the all party Drugs Misuse Group, urged no change in the law. He said that the idea that decriminalisation would have little or no effect on consumption levels was "several steps removed from reality".

"Keeping drugs as a controlled substance keeps the number of young users down. Decriminalisation removes the stigma of criminality and increases usage," he said above heckles.

Rosie Boycott, the editor of the Independent on Sunday, said it was a "historic debate ... the first time the whole issue of cannabis has been quite so openly debated, a stone's throw away from the mother of parliaments."

She said she had received a letter from the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, saying that the Government was against the legalisa-

New Labour's Christmas bashes come to aid of the party season

Labour's first Christmas for a generation in power is being accompanied by a renaissance of festive parties. Kim Sengupto watches the glitter return to political soirées, as the Government sails through stormy waters.

😥 paramilitaries 🤣

I fund civil cases

Christmas is approaching at New Camelot. Champagne flows, the lights are bright and the conversation brighter at Downing Street. There are Cherie Booth and Tony Blair, graciously welcoming guests. Chris Evans, would-be media magnate, arrives with Elisabeth Murdoch, daughter of a rather more established one. Zoe Ball talks to John Thaw, as scores of lesser-knowns gaze at the glittering rooms, political stars and networking celebrities.

Near by at the Commons, New Labour's united front is under intense pressure in a welter of outrage over the cutting of benefits to single parents. and resignations, a sense among Street actress Elizabeth Dawn

ministers of betrayal and loss.

But the little local difficulty has not stopped this becoming a vintage year for political parties. There is a marked contrast. say those who attend, to last year, where parties thrown by a doomed Tory government on the Titanic when they have already seen the iceberg".

After the 18-year march through the wilderness. Labour is laying on the style. Just as

America were deemed to be more fun than those of the Republicans, Labour is judged to be simply better at throwing parties. Big and small, glitzy and more humble, they are erupting up and down Whitehall.

One of the best-attend-"had all the cheer of a concert ed was thrown by Robin Cook at the Foreign Office's Locarno room, built as a "drawing-room for the nation". A French guest said it was one of the Foreign Office whether he the best he had ever been to,



There are tears, recriminations Street cred: Tony Blair partying with the Coronation

many backbenchers and some soirées by the Democrats in noting a mood of "optimism and vibrancy " which had been missing in recent years.

Chris Smith's party for the Department of Culture Media and Sport, held at the National Gallery on the same night, lost some guests as a result, though those there had a free run of the Van Goghs, Monets and Cézannes to distract them. A journalist from a right-wing newspaper, asked at would be going to Mr Smith's party, responded: "Like Goebbels, whenever I hear the word culture, I want to reach for my gun". Picking up another glass of wine, he reflected: "Not a bad bash is it? If they go on like this I will even warm to this gibberish about ethical nuking or whatever they go on about".

Pressure groups say New Labour's advent has led to renewed interest in political activity among showbiz personalities, exemplified by a freedom-of-information bash last night, due to be attended by the likes of Harold Pinter and and Bianca Jagger. Celehs may awake with aching heads and dry mouths. But at least, they can reflect, they are doing their Photograph: PA patriotic duty by the new es-

ARMANI



Toy foster child is condemned

Adoption agencies yesterday called for a virtual reality toy, which tries to represent the raising of a foster child, to be removed from shops.

The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering said they were "appalled" at the toy, called Kimoko the Fosterling. saying that it was "insensitive" and "hurtful" to children who had been lostered or adopted.

Children who play with Kimoko can feed her, educate her, play with her and discipline her if she is naughty. When Kimoko's IQ reaches a certain level she

is adopted. The packaging for the toy tells the child: "Kimoko was deserted at birth by both her parents. She is now in your care as your foster child. If you raise her well ... she will turn into a lovely young girl. Then she will be adopted and leave you to join her new family."

The BAAF said it had had complaints about the toy from both children and carers who had found it "very upsetting".

Its director Felicity Collier said vesterday: "The misleading messages this game gives about being in foster care are most insensitive and could actually he hurtful to children who may already have experienced some sadness. -Children in care are among the

most vulnerable in society and need all the support we can give them. It is most unhelpful when games such as this are circulating among their peers."

Ms Collier said that the idea that a certain level of IQ ensured adoption was "outrageous". She added that most children in foster care eventually return to their parents. To assume adoption is a reward for good behaviour is outrageous.

"We urge all parents who are considering buying this toy for their children to think about the consequences for other

> Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent

Flash in the pan: Fiona Rylance, an inspection assistant, firing a musket on the firearms licensing course run by West Yorkshire police - set up in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy; licensing officers were asked to fire a 'black powder' pistol due to gun owners' renewed interest in the firearms, which are not covered in the handgun ban Photograph: Nigel Hiller

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Guardian writer 'naive and silly'

Victoria Brittain, a senior journalist at The Guardian, has been called "surprisingly naive" by her paper's ombudsman for allowing her bank account to be used to channel money to fund a libel action against The Independent.

Kathy Marks examines the internal Guardian report on Ms Brittain's conduct.

Ms Brittain, the Guardian's deputy foreign editor, "made a silly mistake" and showed "poor judgement" in allowing her account be used by Kojo Tsikata, former head of the Ghanaian

sources, and concludes that she did not compromise her journalistic integrity in helping out Mr Tsikata, an old friend.

He calls it "curious". though, given the closeness of the friendship, that their conversations about the origins of the funds were as limited as she

"While accepting that she never asked Mr Tsikata where the money came from, it is surprising that, as a journalist, and knowing the sensitivity of these matters, she did not ask," Mr Willis says.

Ms Brittain's actions came to light last August when David Shayler, a former MI5 officer, revealed that she had been the target of a year-long surveillance operation which included telephone taps and a plan to raid her home.

MI5 suspected that she was involved in money laundering, but it transpired that the funds were being transferred to Bindfirm of solicitors which was representing Mr Tsikata in his tion, arguing that publication of tion against The Independent.

Mr Willis accepts that, apart from administering the money, Ms Brittain played no part in the litigation, which arose from an article in The Independent in 1992 about a public inquiry into the execution of three high-court judges in Ghana.

She was more than a "mere postbox", as originally asserted by Mr Rusbridger, since she transferred the money between her own accounts and then into Bindman's, faxing Mr Tsikata to nofify him when funds arrived.

But, Mr Willis adds: "However unpalatable for some people to see one journalist implicitly supporting a libel action against others, there is nothing fundamentally wrong with that ... her actions seem to have been limited and she was some way from being a signifi-

London.

Mr Willis says there is "absolutely no evidence" that Ms Brittain was aware of the source of the funds, apart from a cheque for £10,000 from Youssef Ibrahim, a Ghanaian

But he says: "To allow your bank account to be used in this way without thinking that you could be compromised ... is surprisingly naive." It would have been "wiser, more prudent" for her to have avoided any involvement.

He concludes that Ms Brittain will have to live with claims of potential bias if she ever writes about Ghana again. But he says she did not personally profit from the affair and "is surely entitled to one piece of bad judgement".

The Court of Appeal has ruled that the article in The Independent was protected by qualified privilege. Mr Tsikata's man and Partners, a London solicitors have indicated that he intends to proceed with the acthe report was "malicious".

IRA killer escapes in drag

A convicted IRA killer who escaped from the Maze prison on yesterday passed through at least three security checks dressed as a woman, it emerged.

There was no trace yesterday of 32-year-old Liam Averell, who made his way out amid scores of women and children who had attended a Christmas party at the jail, which is supposed to be the UK's most secure penal institution. The general assumption is that he will follow the traditional republican escapers' route of heading for the Irish Re-

In the wake of the security breach the Northern Ireland Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, announced the setting up of an inquiry to be headed by Dr Martin Narey, head of the prison services's head of security and policy division in London. He will be assisted by Dr Peter Bennett, governor of Nottingham prison.

Farmers see sliver of hope

Farmers were yesterday given a glimmer of hope following the turmoil of the last few weeks, when the European Commission agreed to speed up moves to lift the ban on exports of British beef.

Meetings scheduled for early next year are to be brought forward to next week in order to try to appease farmers reeling from a series of blows to the industry. The decision to bring the talks forward followed a meeting in Brussels between farmers and Emma Bonino, the EU Consumer Health Commissioner. Mrs Bonino also promised to weigh up the "halance of risks" before taking on board proposals for a ban on sales of lamb on the bone.

Kate Watson-Smyth

Boost for South Bank plan

of your average call bill

A £75 million Lottery bid to cover London's South Bank Centre with a Richard Rogers glass canopy is being backed by the Arts Council, but the hurdle of available funds remains, the Council's chairman, Lord Gowrie, said.

The Arts Council is asking Culture Secretary Chris Smith for an "advance" on its Lottery cash so it can give the project the green light without stalling other new applications. Philosophical SBC bidders hailed the Arts Council's "re-

sounding endorsement" of the project. "We are much further forward than we were before."

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d comfor John Willis, the paper's ombudsman, says he accepts that she was not aware that much of the money came from Libyan sources, particularly Khalifa Ahmed Bazelya, head of the Libyan interest section of the Libyan interes ots docto

> ers may suffi ^hautism

5/HEALTH NEWS

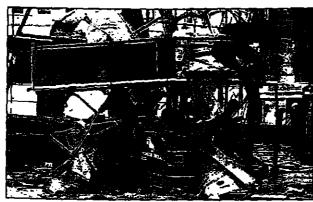
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Ear implant may signal end to the world of silence of bus-driver deafened by IRA blast

A London bus-driver deafened by an IRA bomb blast has had surgery in a final attempt to recover his hearing. Bob Newitt, 51, was made profoundly deaf when a bomb blast ripped through the bus he was driving along the Aldwych in February last year.

Yesterday, Chris Raine, consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon, said Mr Newitt was doing well after receiving a cochlear implant at Bradford Royal Infirmary. It will not be known how successful the operation has been for at least a month, when external parts are fitted.

Mr Newitt, who now lives in Lecds, said he was feeling a bit sore but had been assured all went well during the operation on his left ear. "I feel good, a bit sore and dizzy," he scribbled on a piece of paper from his hospital bed in answer to writsent I could have for Christmas." For Mr Newitt,



The remains of the bus in the Aldwych which Mr Newitt

who has learnt to lip-read, the operation is the final effort by doctors and scientists to end his world of silence.

Mr Raine said: "Most adults who have a cochlear implant have lost their hearing as a result of an infection, such as ten questions. "It's the best pre-meningitis or a congenital defect ... In our experience it nerves. is extremely rare ... to perform

Photograph: Edward Webb such an operation on a patient who has become deaf in such an

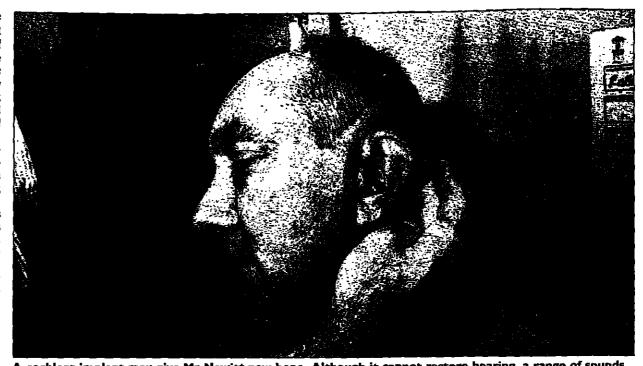
unusuai way. A cochlear implant, a small electronic device, is placed under the skin behind the ear and relays sounds as electronic impulses through a wire into the cochlea, stimulating the hearing

Mr Raine added: "Tests

made in the operating theatre eased our worst fears about nerve damage. But, as with all cochlear-implant patients, we are entering a journey into the unknown when predicting how successful it may be. Mr Newitt has undergone ... tests and scans to assess his suitability and the signs are promising."

Mr Newitt's bus was destroyed when a bomb being carried by Edward O'Brien exploded prematurely, killing the IRA man. Mr Newitt received injuries

to his back and shock waves damaged his chest cavity and lungs but no bones were broken. Although Mr Newitt recovered well from these injuries, his hearing was damaged and doctors later found two hairline cracks in his skull, A cochlear implant cannot restore normal hearing but a range of sounds can be heard and recognised.



A cochlear implant may give Mr Newitt new hope. Although it cannot restore hearing, a range of sounds Esther Leach can be heard and recognised

Cold comfort [№] for live-saving **Scots doctors**

Frozen casualties of the winter cold whose hearts had stopped, in some cases for hours, have been revived by doctors with a heart-lung machine normally used for cardiac surgery. Janet Boyle reports on a technique that can bring hypothermia victims back from the dead.

The cold of a Scottish winter had chilled the victims into suspended animation. But the temperature that brought them to death's door also protected their brains and other organs rushes from the brain and the during the hours they spent with no detectable heartbeat. With expert care, doctors discovered, they could be brought

So far, five patients who were apparently dead have been given specialised re-warming treatment by doctors at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Two later walked out of the hospiwere brought round but later died from complications. Only the fifth could not be revived.

icapes in drag

sliver of hope

The four men and one woman, aged from 30 to 55, were resuscitated by doctors at the Royal's Accident and Emergency department. Two were found on the streets, two others at home, and one had ocen rescued from the Clyde. Gordon McNaughton, senior registrar, said: "When they arrived here their hearts had stopped and their temperatures varied between 22C and 30C, compared with the body average of 37C. It was vital to establish firstly whether the patient stood a like-

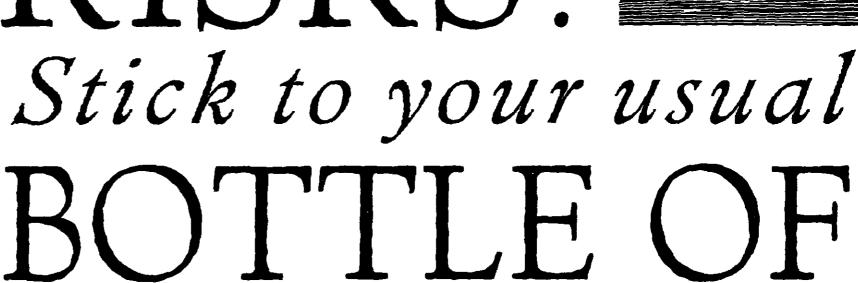
ly chance of survival." The doctors checked their blood levels of potassium, which is released at death. A high level indicates the end of life. "Success is very unlikely in someone with a very high level of potassium," Dr Mc-Naughton said. Where the test showed there was a chance, staff connected the patient to the heart-lung machine via tubes inserted into the groin.

The blood was removed and rewarmed to 37C by pumping it through the by-pass machine. By applying heat internally rather than externally the vital organs - heart and brain - are warmed first. If a severely hypothermic body is warmed from the outside, the blood heart and may prevent the patient recovering. Doctors say a hypothermic body is not dead until it is warm and dead.

The cold protects the brain and vital organs while the patient's heart has stopped. But doctors cannot tell whether the patient will survive until the thawing is complete. Those who are going to survive resume tal fit and well, and two more a heart beat when the body temperature reaches 35C. "There have been cases reported of survival after prolonged cardiac arrest," Dr McNaughton added.

As well as by-pass treatment the patients require cardiopulmonary resuscitation with a mechanical breathing and chest-thumping machine. This avoids the chance of staff tiring. because resuscitation can take up to five hours. Previous research suggests half of patients with severe hypothermia survive. Other techniques for rewarming have been used. including introducing warm saline solution into the chest and abdominal cavities.

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Loners may suffer from autism

collection of rocks in the attic. un encyclopaedie knowledge of train timetables and a nonexistent social life may be suffering from a mental disorder.

Autism, the condition characterised by social withdrawal. lack of empathy and indifference to others may affect people in a mild form so that it merges into "what can be called eccentric normality", according to a leading psychiatrist.

thought to affect up to 5,000 people and has a genetic cause. is marked by problems of social interaction, communication and imagination. Autistic people lack the capacity to read social situations, tend to he socially clumsy and suffer isolation as a result. It is fascinating because it disturbs something that is at

the core of being human. Dr Lorne Wing of the Centre for Social and Communication Disorders in Bromley, Kent. says that although most people have का judge of autism 45 %-

The eccentric academic with a verely disabling, in some sufferers impairment is so subtle that they may be seen as simply loners. They tend to be absorbed in their own interests and lack empathy for others. Some marry but partners tend to feel a lack of emotional rapport.

Writing in the Lancet, Dr Wing says there is no cure, but people with autism can be helped with education tailored to their disabilities. Their schooldays are often stressful because they will The condition, which is not conform to demands of teachers or fellow pupils.

"Most are happier as adults and may follow successful careers, sometimes of high academic distinction. Some learn the rules of social interaction by rote, while others remain solitary by choice."

However, she adds: "High functioning people with autistic disorders have been able to describe their experiences of the world as a confusing and frightening place."

Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor no half measures.

Seeing double: William Hague, the Conservative leader, posing with his Madame Tussaud's image in the London museum yesterday. His fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, stands between the wax model, who wears a Hugo Boss suit donated by Mr Hague, and the real thing

Freedom of information proposal gets high praise

Rare, across-the-board acclaim greeted the Government White Paper on freedom of information yesterday. A practised hand at trying to get information out of the government machine, Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, takes a closer look at Your Right to Know.

The heartfelt welcome from Richard Shepherd, the Conservative MP who initiated a government a decade ago, was worth far more than the qualified, "constructive" support of the Opposition frontbench in the Commons yesterday.

But the surprise felt by proponents of open government was best summed up by the reaction of Maurice Frankel, long-standing director of the Campaign for Freedom of Information, who called the document "stunning". In a Commons statement, David Clark, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Cabinet minister directly responsible for the White Paper, went out of his way to praise the contribution of Lord Irvine of Lairg. the Lord Chancellor, who chaired the Cabinet Committee on the matter - and ensured its

safe delivery. Mr Clark said the statutory right of access offered by the White Paper to information and records "will transform the culture of government and make it more open and accountable. It is a huge step towards rebuilding trust between

government and the people." Some of the main features of the White Paper were remarkable. Information held by privatised water boards, other utilities, and the BBC, as well as the armed forces, hospitals and schools, would be opened up, although, as Mr Shepherd discovered in Commons questions, it was unclear whether rights to openness would extend to the European Council. Mr Frankel was also impressed that the enforcement powers of a new Information Commissioner would be as tough as those of any court, to compel the Government to release in-

formation "The White Paper goes further than we had thought any British Government would be willing to go," Mr Frankel said. But there were a number of serious gaps that could impede genuine inquiries.

Dr Clark told The Independent that there was no question of departments setting up catalogues or indices of the information they held, to give the public a better idea of what was available. "There can't be an index," he said. "There is no need for an index." But even the Croham Directive, an ineffectual attempt at open government issued by Sir Douglas Allen, Head of the Home Civil Service, 20 years ago, conceded that a digest of information available would provide enormous support for any right to know.

Without such assistance, scarches can become worse than looking for needles in Whitehall haystacks. Without are looking for, people could face the charge that they are indulging in what vesterday's White Paper called "large-scale fishing expeditions or other applications which would result in a disproportionate cost or diversion of the public authority's resources ... '

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There was also an insistence that the public could not be allowed access to the innermost policy advice and decision-making discussions of government, where disclosure would cause harm - rather than the "substantial harm" test that it be applied to other protected areas of information, like defence and law enforcement.

The White Paper says: 'Now, more than ever, government needs space and time in which to assess arguments

and conduct its own debates with a degree of privacy."

pels set i wider di er benefi

The particular points of policy protection included: the maintenance of collective ministerial responsibility - or the disclosure of splits; and the political impartiality of public officials - the exposure of their engagement in politically sen-

But the White Paper does include a case-by-case public interest clause, under which officials would be expected to consider whether a decision not to disclose information might itself "result in substantial harm to public safety, or the backbench Bill for more open environment". In welcoming the proposal to appoint an Information Commissioner to police the open government process, the Campaign for Freedom of Information noted "that complainants would not have to bear the potentially prohibitive costs of going to court to enforce their rights.

However, Dr Clark told The Independent that the Commissioner would be appointed by the Prime Minister - a critical choice, and a significant power, if the process is to run

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

 White Paper offers public a statutory right of access to official records and informa-

 Scope includes not only Government departments, NHS, local authorities and quangoes like Atomic Energy Authority - but privatised utilities, too.

 Exclusions include Security and intelligence services, like MI5 and MI6, as well as specal forces like the SAS.

 A right of access will be provided for records or information of any date, for normal fee of £10 maximum, provided no substantial harm caused.

Seven areas to be protect. ed: national security, defence and international relations; law enforcement; personal privacy: commercial confidentiality; public, individual and environmental safety; and information supplied in confi-

 Additional protection for Government decision-making and policy advice, and 30year closure rule remains for historical records. Information Commissione

to adjudicate and enforce nghts of access, but with no back-up right of appeal to

 New criminal offence to be created for wilful or reckless destruction, alteration or withholding of records from Commissioner.

smoothly. In his preface to the White Paper vesterday, Tony Blair said: "The traditional culture of secrecy will only be broken down by giving people in the United Kingdom the legal right to know. This fundamental and vital change in the relationship between government and governed is at the heart of this White Paper."

But John Redwood, the Conservative Trade and Industry spokesman, told The Indeknowing specifically what they pendent last night that for all its spirit of openness, he had been unable to find out from the Government the precise role being played by Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, in the negotiation of new coal contracts, and he was having difficulty in getting the Government to accept Commons questions on such matters. "It's a funny old world," he said. "strange how these coincidences keep on happening."

Following public consultation on the White Paper, the Government hopes to produce a draft Bill by summer, with the possibility of legislation starting within 12 months and enactment by the summer of 1999. The law would then be phased in over time, but with the real possibility of widespread change before the next election.



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THE 47

DISSIDENTS

Diane Abbott (Hackney N and Stoke Newington), John Austin (Erith and Thamesmead), Harry Barnes

(Derbyshire NE), Tony Benn (Chesterfield), Dr Roger Berry (Kingswood). Harold Best (Leeds NW), Ronnie

Campbell (Blyth Valley),

Dennis Canavan (Falkirk

W), Martin Caton (Gower),

David Chaytor (Bury North),

Malcolm Chisbolm (Edin-

burgh N and Leith), Ann

Clwyd (Cynon Valley), Frank

Cook (Stockton N), Jeremy

Corbyn (Islington N), Ann

Cryer (Keighley), John Cry-

er (Hornchurch), Hilton

Dawson (Lancaster and

Wyre), Jim Dobbin (Hey-

wood and Middleton),

Gwyneth Dunwoody (Crewe

and Nantwich), William

Etherington (Sunderland N),

Maria Fyfe (Glasgow Mary-

hill), Dr Ian Gibson (Nor-

wich N). Dr Norman

Godman (Greenock and In-

verelyde), Bernie Grant (Tot-

tenham), David Hinchliffe

(Wakefield), Kelvin Hop-kins (Luton N), Brian Iddon

(Bolton SE). Dr Lynne Jones

(Birmingham Selly Oak),

Terry Lewis (Worsley), Ken

Livingstone (Brent E), John

McAllion (Dundee E), John

McDonnell (Hayes and Har-

lington), Kevin McNamara

(Hull N), Alice Mahon (Hal-

ifax), Dr John Marek (Wrex-

ham), Bill Michie (Sheffield

Heeley), Gordon Prentice

(Pendle), Brian Sedgemore

(Hackney S and Shoreditch).

Jonathon Shaw (Chatham

and Aylesford), Alan Simp-

son (Nottingham S), Dennis

Llewellyn Smith (Blaneau

Gwent), Ian Stewart (Ec-

cles), Robert Wareing (Liv-

erpool West Derby), David

Winnick (Walsall N). Au-

drey Wise (Preston), Mike

Wood (Batley and Spen).

(Bolsover).

Skinner

7/LABOUR'S REBELS

Rebels set stage for wider divide over benefit cuts

Labour left-wingers were predicting a new and even bigger revolt over disability benefits last night after 47 MPs voted against plans to cut lone parents' payments. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, asked whether this week's set-back would force a change of direction.

Leaders of the campaign against cuts in lone parents' benefits were celebrating what they believed was a victory yesterday.

They believed the threat of an even worse rebellion could prevent similar cuts to disability benefits.

Ken Livingstone, one of the leading fig-ures in the lone-parent revolt, said that 100 MPs supported the campaign but more had expressed sadness at having to support the measure. One member had told him it was "the worst day of my life".

"People get more independent, not less, as parliaments go on," Mr Livingstone to be had. He expected to have a "chat" said. "It's going to be almost impossible to get through any real cuts in disability ben-

efit. It would be too damaging." Even the most loyal ministers conceded privately that the issue of lone mothers' benefits was badly handled And while there was a very good reason why a decision to were no cabinet rebels, there must have been some with heavy hearts. John Prescott lash: "If I was suspended Peter Mandelson was in Japan, but Robin Cook was given automatically takes my seat on the National permission not to vote despite being in the Executive Committee." country. He was meeting the Spanish foreign minister.

There were warnings of "implacable opposition to any cuts" from a Labour MP, David Winnick, and from the Labour peer crushers". He compounded his offence by Lord Ashley of Stoke.

Lord Ashley, joint chairman of the Parliamentary All-Party Disablement Group, had goolies I would crush them." Aftersaid the group would meet Harriet Harman, Secretary of State for Social Security, next week to say it would not back any plans to tax, means-test or time-limit disability benefits, which are believed to be under con-

"All the disabled people who have been tact with the whips. in touch with me have been very, very upset about this. Their anxiety and anger can. if ignored or mishandled, make the one parent family row look tame in comparison. We shall be seeking a clear commitment their cases referred to the Parliamentary from Harriet Harman - no cuts," he said. Labour Party.

The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, said reforms of the benefits system would continue. What we are trying to do is reform a welfare state that is stale. The public and people in the Labour Party will understand that we are doing the right thing," he said in a radio interview.

Downing Street spokesmen added that MPs had been elected on a modernising agenda and they should expect to stick to it. They also predicted disciplinary action against the rebels.

As the scale of Tony Blair's first big rebellion had become clear, whips and party spokesmen had named four offenders who they said would face disciplinary action or even expulsion. At the very least Brian Sedgemore, John Marek, Ken Livingstone and Bob Wareing would face a loss of privileges, they said. But yesterday the rebels continued to speak out against party discipline and dismissed the expulsion rumours as "spin".

Mr Livingstone claimed that when he went into the whips' office yesterday morning to take his punishment there was none with the chief whip, Nick Brown, but little more. The whips had seemed "demoralised," he added. "I am very pissed off. I cleared my diary so I could be free to be disciplined," he said. He added that there discipline him would create a left-wing back-

Another of the four, Brian Sedgemore, said he had had a similar experience. He was picked out for writing a letter in which he described the whips as "gooliesaying on Newsnight that his whip, Bridget Prentice, had told him: "If I thought you wards, the chief whip had merely told him: "You've been naughty."

Bob Wareing, who was said to be in particular trouble because he was recently suspended for a breach of the rules on members' interests, said he had had no con-

"I'll let them worry about it. I'm just getting on with my job," he said. A government source said Mr Wareing. Mr Sedgemore and Mr Marek would have

Rebels with a cause: Alice Mahon (above) and Gordon Prentice and Malcolm Chisholm (below) will pay with their careers

Principled and old join usual suspects

Even the most hardened rebels were surprised by the size of Wednesday night's Commons revolt over lone parent benefits. Fran Abrams, Political

Correspondent, asks if the new Labour worms are starting to turn.

Even this week they were being dismissed by party hacks as a handful of Trots. But while most of the "usual suspects" were among the 100 or so who failed to support the measure, there were others who had been totally loyal until now.

newly elected in May this year. Some of those, such as the former GLC deputy leader John McDonnell and both Ann and John Cryer, widow and son of the former Labour MP Bob Cryer, were known to be leftwingers. Others, such as Martin Caton, MP for Gower, and Ian Gibson, MP for Norwich North, had not been picked out as potentially disloyal. Their whips' office files will have been marked.

Some were prepared to sacrifice their careers, including Malcolm Chisholm, who resigned as a Scottish Office minister, and Secretary. His colleague Alice Mahon, and Aylesworth with a majority of 2.790.

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Of the 47 who voted against, 14 were deeply loyal since being made a PPS this year, was previously known as a left-winger.

There is always a balance to be weighed between ambition and principle, of course, and the list of rebels is heavily peppered with

those whose career prospects were slim. Half were more than 55 years old and therefore regarded as being on a downward slope towards retirement. Then there were the "unlikely lads and lasses", whose slim majorities rendered their prospects of surviving the next election almost non-existent. In that category were Hilton Dawson, the Lancaster MP with a majority of just 1,295, Gordon Prentice, a Parliamentary Private and Jonathan Shaw, member for Chatham

Perhaps even more interesting is the list of those who did not vote. Fourteen abstained in person, while another 38 stayed away. The abstainers included George Galloway, colourful MP for Glasgow Kelvin, and Julie Morgan, new MP for Cardiff North.

Many previously deeply loyal Blairite new MPs stayed away. Some may have had genuine reasons, but others will have had permission to be absent because they would not vote with the Government. Among the absentees were Oona King, from Bethnal Green and Bow, who was in Bangladesh, and Claire Ward, the 25-year-old from Watford, who was said to have had an important meeting to attend.

Paul Flynn, member for Newport West, said in his recent book, Commons Knowledge, that backbenchers were much more difficult to control than they used to be. After telling the whips he would vote against the Government on Wednesday, he was in the event unable to attend. A large number of MPs were too old, too left-wing, or simply too damn independent to be controlled, he added.

"Backbenchers are no longer disciplinable in the traditional way, but the party thinks they are. There are lots of groups that just can't be pushed around," he said.

New Labour's edifice remained intact this

week, but for those who care to look close-

ly, the cracks are beginning to show.

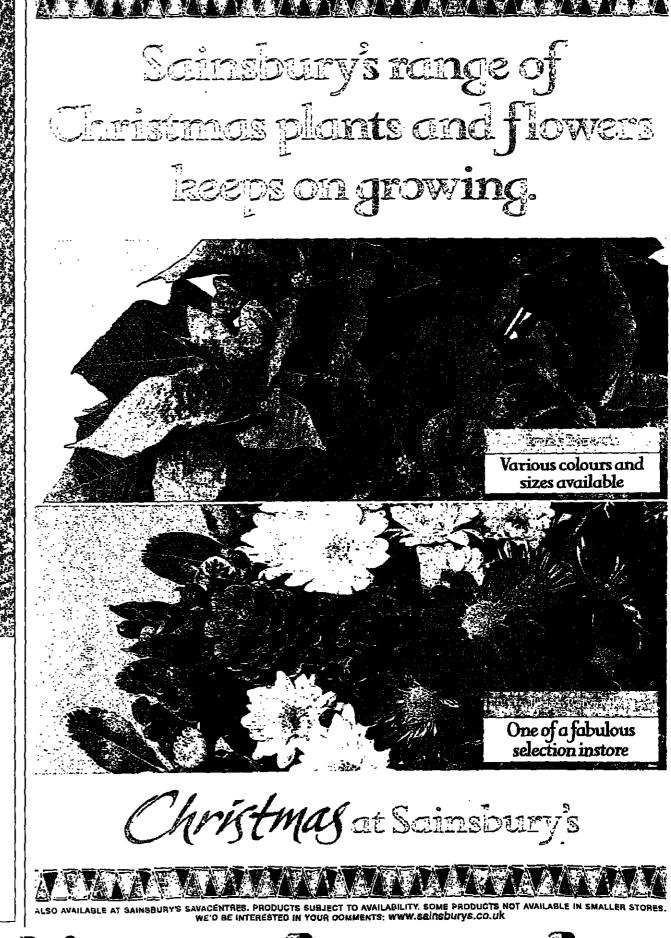
Lawrie Quinn (Scarborough and Whitby) was recorded as voting both for and against the amendment despite having backed the Government. So the total was 47 and not 48, as reported in yesterday's Independent.



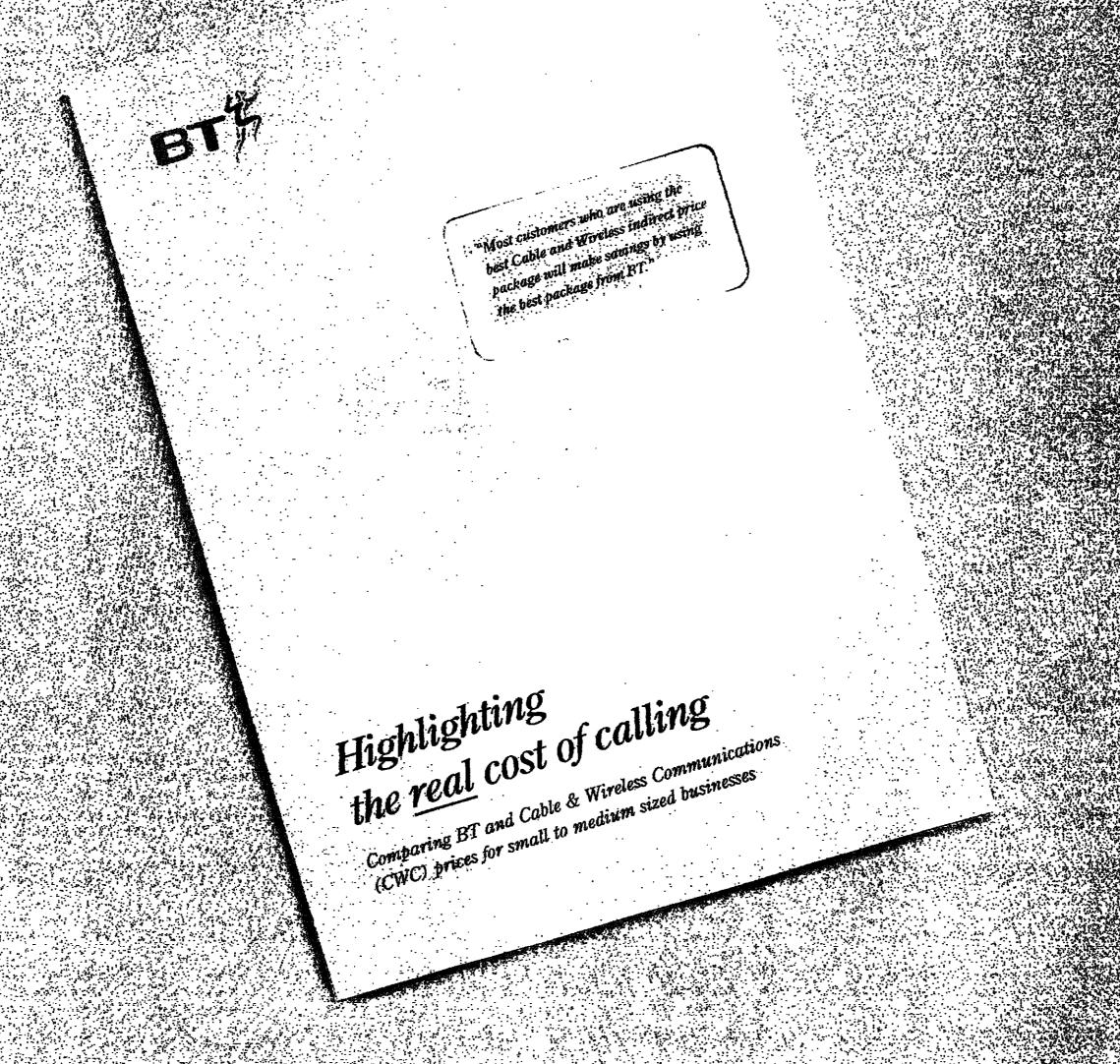
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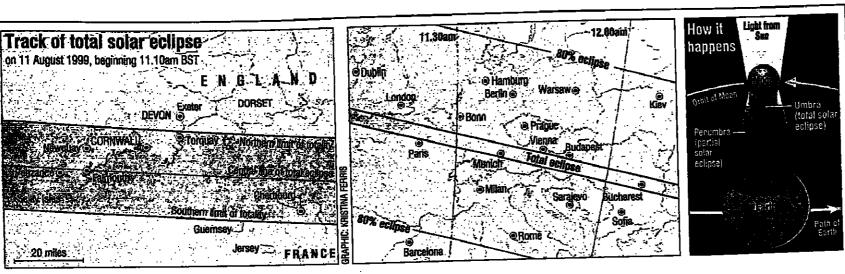
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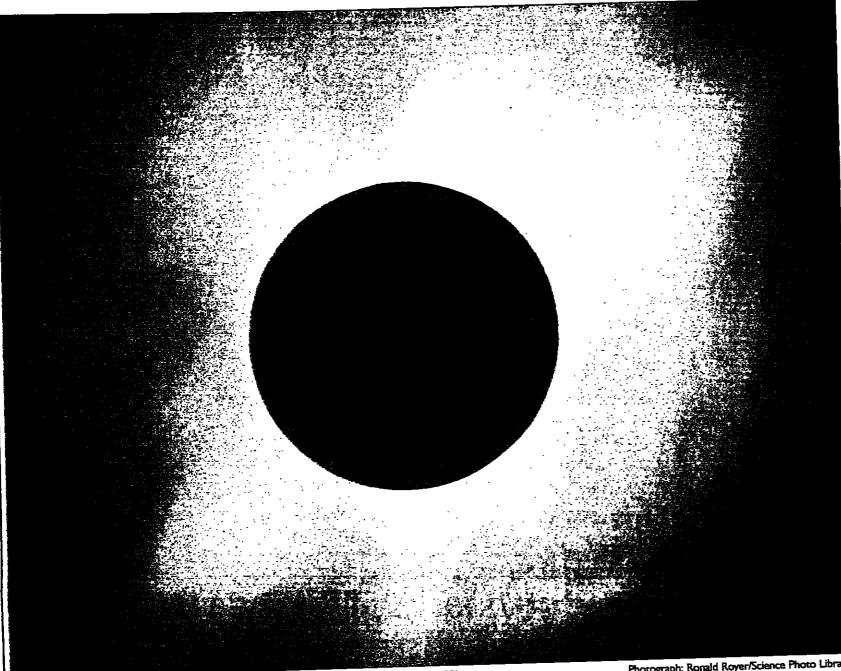
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9/ENVIRONMENT

THE INDEPENDENT FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 1997



Cornwall frets about darkness at noon



Solar power: The Sun's corona, seen from Mexico during the total eclipse of July 1991

Photograph: Ronald Royer/Science Photo Library

Darkness at noon isn't just a book title for Cornwall County Council. It is what will happen there on II August 1999 - the UK's last total solar eclipse until 2090. And Cornwall is worried. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains why.

In the past few thousand years solar eclipses have often been accompanied by panic. The disappearance of the Sun - as the Moon passes in front of it - has been seen as an omen presaging awful events and divine wrath.

Cornwall County Council, mindful of preparing for the likely effects of August emergency planning officer. "By re- as Torbay. However, the "totality", in

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1999. While divine wrath is low down in the list of expectations, there are some certain predictions: hotels and campsites will overflow, roads will get blocked and tempers will fray as people travel from all around the world to see the two minutes of "totality" at around 12.10pm on the 11th. And they'll all leave a lot of litter.

More worryingly, many of the sunwatchers may damage their eyesight by trying to view the eclipse without adequate eye protection. Of less concern is that streetlights with sensors may turn on automatically as "darkness" falls.

Yesterday, the council held a summit to try to predict what the human and economic effects of the eclipse will be. "It is clear we must begin our preparations now," said Steve Winston, the county's

hearsing potential problems we will ensure maximum safety for everyone, and the maximum benefits for Cornwall."

The council has applied for £50,000 in European funding to help it deal with the influx. The forecast is that up to a million people will crowd into the county. Hotels near Land's End have been booked up for some years by groups who tour the world to observe eclipses. Some local gossip has suggested that room rates for those dates are moving rapidly skywards.

The event will be the only total eclipse visible in Britain in most of our lifetimes. The last was in northern England in 1927; the next will affect London in 2090. In 1999, any part of Cornwall south of a line between Camelford and Launceston will have a partial eclipse, as will Devon as far

which only the sun's fiery corona can be seen, will be best seen in west Cornwall. from Penzance to Falmouth.

Traffic snarl-ups are likely to be a major problem. In 1991, Mexico's preparations for an eclipse included a ban on traffic movements for half an hour, enforced by 1,000 police and 10 helicopters. Cornwall has more road miles than any other county, and many of them are narrow and easily blocked. That in itself could pose a problem for the emergency services.

Still, the logistical problems posed by modern-day eclipses are very different in character from those of the past. In 1560, the announcement in France of a forthcoming eclipse led to widespread panic as people thought it meant an imminent day of divine reckoning and began fighting for a place in the queue for the confessional.

Now the test for **Kyoto resolution**

Seen in the harsh light of dawn, what did more than a week of round-the-clock negotiation in Kyoto achieve? Nicholas Schoon, environment correspondent, examines the brave new world created by the new anti-global warming treaty.

Things will never be the same again ... perhaps. In Kyoto the nations of the world agreed on a decisive step to begin tackling the threat of man-made climate change. But it will take about six years before you can judge whether nearly 30 developed nations - which agreed to cut their annual output of six key global-warming gases - are serious about the new Kyoto protocol.

First, they will have to sign and ratify the treaty to make it legally binding - and there are major doubts about whether the biggest polluter, the US, with its anti-Kyoto majority of politicians in Congress, will.

Secondly, their governments will have to make a prompt start on implementing the policies needed to stop emissions of these gases rising. They have a few years to change the upward trend into a decline in order to comply with the provisions of the new United Nations treaty.

Overall, it means a 5.2 per cent cut in annual emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases from the developed world by 2012, compared with a 1990 baseline. The European Union has agreed to an 8 per cent cut, the US to 7 per cent and Japan to 6 per cent. Although EU nations of the planet would be allocated the same felt strongly that the US and Japan should cut emissions with the same flat rate, the fact that they took the issue most seriously and called for a deeper cut than any other group of countries has ended up with them being allocated the largest reduction.

As for Japan, its negotiators argued remorselessly and successfully in Kyoto that the nation hosting the treaty conference was a special case. Japan uses fossil fuels with trade their quotas through a free market.

high efficiency because it has virtually none of its own - they all have to be imported. As a result, it produces relatively few of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with these fuels considering its buge productivity and wealth. Under the final agreement, Russia has to stabilise its emissions. Australia, Iceland, and Norway are allowed to increase their global-warming pollution by 2012; they all pleaded successfully that they

were special cases. Environmentalists are, discreetly, rather pleased by the final agreement. Given how far the major industrialised nations were apart at the start of the conference, the depths of cuts agreed is slightly more than they were guessing at its start.

It was the Americans who caved in most of all, but there is a risk the Republicandominated Congress will refuse to ratify the treaty. Jeremy Leggett, a former campaigner with Greenpeace who now promotes solar power, said: "I'm quite encouraged. Now we'll see whether this treaty starts to transform the energy industry." He said it sent a clear signal to big oil companies that their sales of polluting fossil fuels would be capped in the developed world, and encouraged them to move into renewable energy sources. In the long run, the developing countries will have to be brought into the treaty if it is to be effective in slowing the rate of climate change caused by pollution.

The most rational way of dealing with the problem seems to be the "contraction and convergence" approach advocated by the London-based Global Commons Institute. Under its scenario, every inhabitant quantity of greenhouse gases to emit, divided out of a total which kept climate change within tolerable limits.

This would give every country, whatever its wealth, a certain quota of pollution. Developed countries have more than their fair share of this quota, while many developing nations still have less. The institute says all countries should be able to

Labour faces rethink on greenhouse-gas curbs

Political agreement in Kyoto – but business grumblings back home. Labour's stance on greenhouse es may have to be revised in the cold light of day. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, explains.

The UK government's role in the European Union's commitment to reduce its greenhouse-gas outputs by 8 per cent will be a tough one on three fronts.

First, Labour will have to decide how any cuts are implemented. The obvious suggestion - that all sectors, such as domestic, industrial and transport - should cut outputs of the six named gases equally, will meet opposition from groups like the Confederation of British Industry (CBI). They think the initial burden should fall on easier targets for improvement, such as the domestic sector.

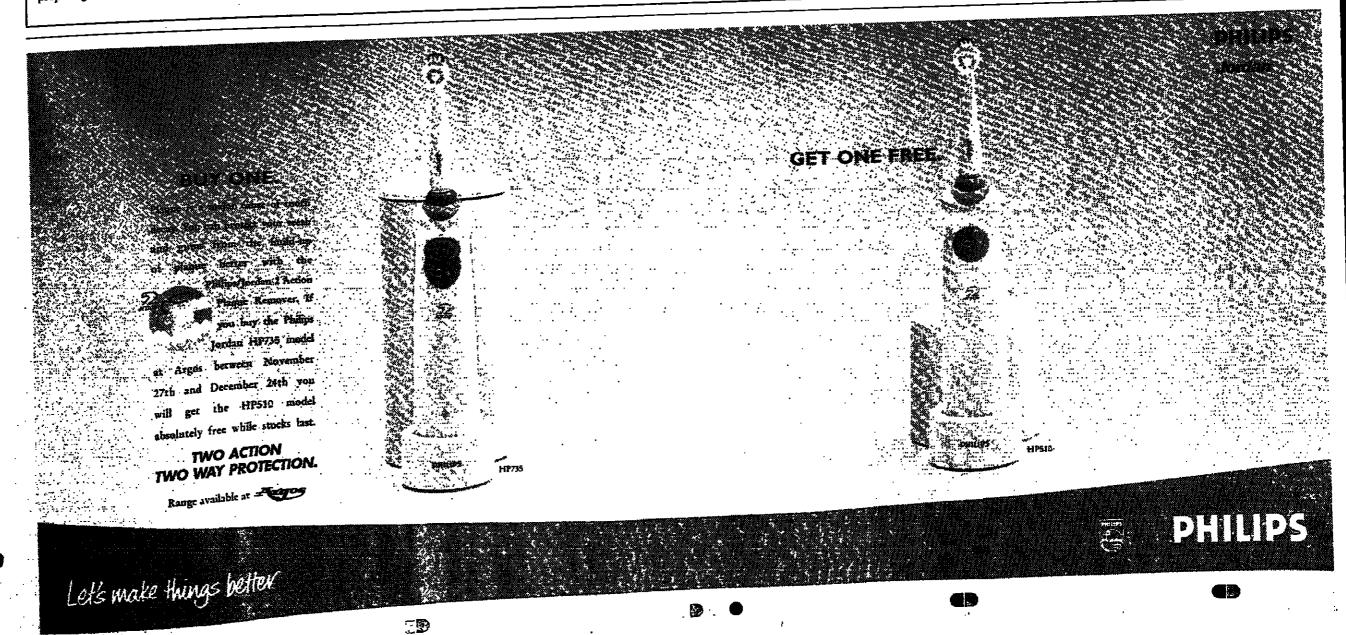
Secondly, the exact allocation of cuts has to be parcelled out among EU members, and under the procedure known as "burden sharing", in which richer countries within the union have to shoulder larger cuts, the UK's share of reduction emissions may be closer to 10 per cent, rather than 8 per sumption in the domestic, rather than incent. This will be a tough negotiating issue

which Britain will oversee during its presidency of the EU next year. It has already been taking a close interest, as Luxembourg, the current EU president, recognised early on that it would not have the negotiating resources to tackle Kyoto on its own. and called on Britain for assistance.

Thirdly, the Labour Party manifesto commits the UK to a 20 per cent cut in carbon-dioxide emissions. Post-Kyoto, this seems excessive. Carbon dioxide is the least "warming" of the "basket" of six gases (carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) involved in the agreement. There seems little point in making high-profile commitments to major cuts in a gas if we might meet - or even exceed our targets by other means.

It remains to be seen whether Labour will quietly drop this target, or brandish it as an example to be achieved.

But some of the early lobbying will almost certainly come from the business sector, which is keen to escape any early strictures on its output. Michael Roberts, of the CBI, suggested yesterday that the Government should start by "plucking the low-lying fruit", and reduce energy condustrial sector.



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Government lawyers, the police and barristers are all criticised today in a report on the quality of the prosecution service.

The National Audit Office attacks barristers for receiving then returning prosecution cases, causing widespread delays. The report says this happens in three-quarters of cases, and that in a third of these the prosecutions are then handled by barristers described as "of inappropriate quality".

Victims of crime are not being involved in the prosecution of their attackers, especially in cases where charges are dropped, according to the Government watchdog

It criticises the Crown Prosecution Service for not giving full enough explanations to police to pass on to victims where they decide not to prosecute. Charges do not proceed in 12 per cent of cases, a slight improvement on recent years.

The report says only one third of police files meet both time and quality guidelines.

The NAO attacks the lack of independence of the CPS Inspectorate and the delays and ir cost in bringing in a new computerised scheme to enable it to keep track of cases. The project, originally expected to cost £8m. will now cost £16m.

Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

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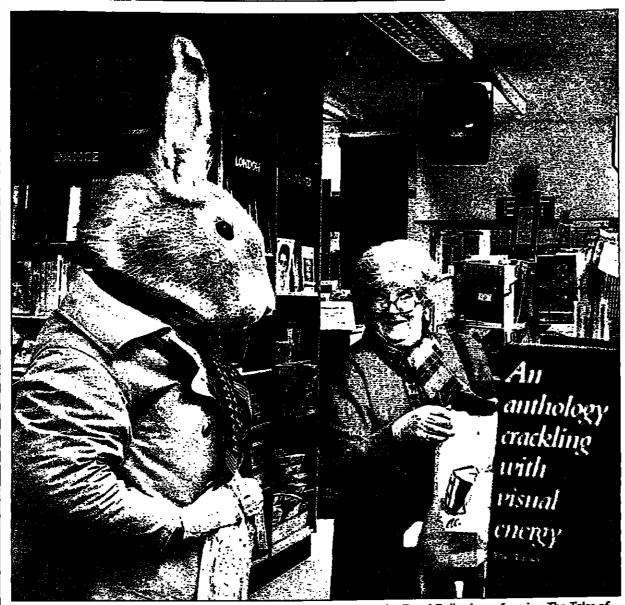
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Mystery of BA jet and Russian fighters in near miss

British air safety investigators have a reputation of being among the finest in the world. However, says Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, in a report issued yesterday they have failed to explain why two Russian fighter aircraft and their refuelling plane narrowly missed crashing into a British Airways jet carrying IIO passengers this summer.

BA's Boeing 737 was heading towards Gatwick when it had to take avoiding action to miss three Russian military jets which had descended lower than their instructed course.

The BA aircraft - en route from Aberdeen - had to take a steeper than normal left turn and passed half a mile from the Russian aircraft. The incident occurred last July in clear skies over Reading in Berkshire.

The Russian formation team

- consisting of two Sukhoi SU an air show.
30s and the Ilyushin IL 76 Another. tanker aircraft - had been descending from 35,000ft on its approach to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire from Kalininggrad. When at 18,000ft, it started to drift, inexplicably

downwards. Then at 16,000ft, it started to descend again - despite being told to hold its position - and almost caused a catastrophe. Only the quick reactions of the controllers and the BA crew averted the disaster which saw the aircraft come within 600ft of each other.

The BA captain filed an report stating he estimated the miss distance" as about 400ft vertically and 800m horizontally.

There are at least three explanations. One, that some equipment was faulty on the Russian tanker craft. It was the only jet in two-way communication with air traffic controllers. Two, the Russian pilots misunderstood an instruction in English. The report says the air traffic controllers had had difing in formation on their way to reason why is unknown.

ory, would be that the military pilots would not answer questions. This is unlikely as the Russian crew did co-operate enough to produce an accident

report. The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said in its report that procedures for dealing with military formation flights in civil air space should now be tightened.

The Department of Envi-ronment, Transport and the Regions refused to help. David Stewart, a spokesman, said: "We are not going to ask any inspectors any questions on your behalf. If it is not in the report, we are not going to help."

This attitude is unlikely to change. Safety agencies and regulatory bodies in Britain do not publish the evidence they receive because officials claim that otherwise their decisions could be questioned. This still leaves many unanswered questions in the case of the BA jet and the Russian flying team. ficulty communicating with the What can be said is hundreds Russian aircraft, which were fly- of lives were put in peril and the

DAILY POEM

Two men at once

By Horman MacCaig

In the Culag Bar a fiddler is playing fast-rippling tunes with easy

How do I know? I'm in Edinburgh.

On the pier, sun-scorched tourists

hang their bellies over improbable shorts. How do I know? I'm in Edinburgh.

In the Veyatie burn a man hooks a trout. It starts rampaging.

And I'm in Edinburgh.

Or so I say. How easy to be

One smiling and drinking coffee in Learnington Terrace, Edinburgh.

The other cutting the pack of memories and turning up ace after ace after ace.

This poem completes our selection from the Edinburgh poet Norman MacCaig, who was born in the city in 1910 and died there in 1996. They come from his Selected Poems, edited by Douglas Dunn and recently published by Chatto & Windus (£8.99).

Scout leader abused boys

A former Scout leader and care worker was yesterday convicted of a string serious sexual offences against young boys after detectives uncovered a catalogue of systematic abuse, stretching over 10 years.

David Stanley, 49, of Telford, Shropshire, was found guilty on six counts of buggery, and two counts of attempted buggery against Scouts and boys in his care.

He was also convicted at Worcester Crown Court on eight counts of indecent assault and one of possessing indecent photographs with a view to distributing them on the Internet. Stanley had denied all sexual assault charges, but pleaded guilty to the possession of pornographic pictures which he traded on the Internet. The jury acquitted Stanley on two counts of buggery and six of indecent assault. Three further counts of indecent assault were left on file. One charge of attempted buggery was discharged. He was cleared on one count of buggery.

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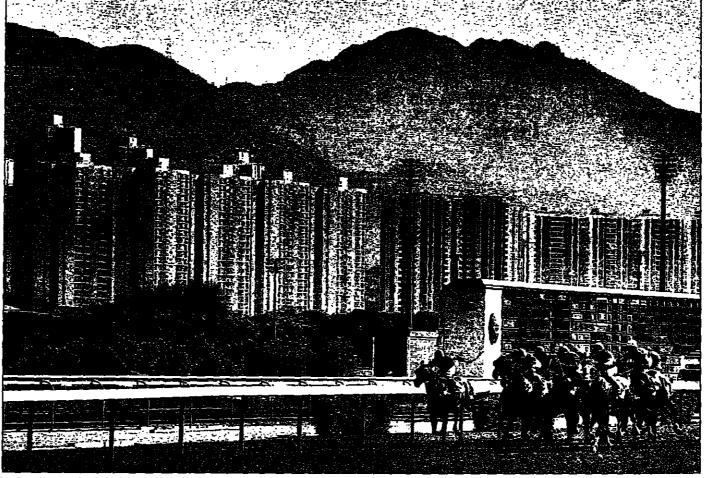
11/HONG KONG

Scout leader

abused boys

Courses for horses on Cook's China tour





Racing certainty: The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, whose schedule for a trip to China is revolving around his desire to visit Hong Kong's Happy Valley race track (above)

problem for his officials as they plan his first visit to the Chinese mainland as Foreign Secretary. They have been told that, on the Hong Kong leg of the trip, their boss - a distinguished horserace tipster - must have his night at the Happy Valley race track, even if it means juggling his China schedule around the race meetings. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong and Teresa Poole in Peking report.

Robin Cook has set a

The logistics have not been races only occur on Wednesdays

other, rather more serious mat- to clash with the previous ters of protocol which must week's visit to Peking of Martake priority. But Mr Cook is a frustrated race-goer. When he came to Hong Kong for the handover to Chinese rule on 1 July, the horse-racing season had finished. On a visit in May 1996, the season was on but Mr Cook had to get back to London to attend to urgent parliamentary business. So he is leaving little to chance for this third official visit.

The Foreign Secretary will therefore be in Hong Kong on Wednesday, 21 January to start his official meetings in the former colony. And that evening he will be sitting in one of the luxury boxes at the newly refurbished Happy Valley racecourse. There is little flexibility with the date, because Mr easy, because the Hong Kong Cook's trip to China and Hong

garet Beckett, President of the Board of Trade.

Any further delay, and he will run into the following week's Chinese New Year holiday, when China effectively shuts down. He also has to fit in with the travel plans of his counterpart, Qian Qichen, who is due back from a trip to Africa just before Mr Cook's China vis-

Planning meetings are taking place to try to find a way of accommodating the demands of horse racing and Sino-British

At first it was suggested by the British that the problem could be solved if Mr Cook arrived first in Guangzhou (Canton), moving from there to Hong Kong, and then to Peking Kong has to take place in the for a day of meetings on Thurs-

To Chinese eyes, this would he a big break with established diplomatic protocol, which demands that a visiting foreign secretary should make Peking the first stop on the mainland.

made to the Chinese for this schedule. Before the Chinese replied,

Nevertheless, a request was

the logistical problems of organising this itinerary began to worry UK officials. It would have meant Mr

Cook leaving the Happy Valley race track just before the last race on 21 January. He would then have been whisked to the airport and flown by a government VC-10 to Peking, arriving early on Thursday, where Chinese protocol officials would have had to turn out in the middle of the night at the airport to meet him.

Nevertheless, this was still

week, but wiser counsel seems the lure of the turf. Mr Cook has to have prevailed. The night at serious business to transact. the races is still safe but the The main purpose of the visit is to build on the warming re-Guangzhou stop of the visit has lations between London and been dropped, despite the original notion that it was useful for Peking since the Hong Kong Mr Cook to see somewhere in handover. He will also lay the ground for the planned Tony mainland China other than Peking. The British side hopes Blair trip later this year. Mr Mr Qian will be available slight-Blair met President Jiang ly earlier that week, so Mr Zemin in Hong Kong the night Cook will arrive first in Peking of the handover, with much banand fly to Hong Kong by ter from the Chinese side about Wednesday, and back to Lonthe youth of the new British don. He will not get the chance Prime Minister.

to see a bit more of China - but

will get to Hong Kong in time

Cook will be able - if he wish-

es - to make use of normal

scheduled flights, rather then

One obvious benefit of the

for the races.

Mr Cook's love of borse-racing might also make for some friendly exchanges.

Chinese officials love going revised timetable is that Mr to the races in Hong Kong, Larry Yung, the son of the Chinese vice-president Rong Yiren, is a senior steward of what used to needing his own plane for a latebe called the Royal Hong Kong night Hong Kong-Peking flight. Jockey Club - now simply known as the Hong Kong Jock-Although the planning of the

Lassitude rules as economy sinks

When Britain packed its bags and left Hong Kong, the general expectation was that the post-colonial regime would be preoccupied by political problems. Instead, it is becoming overwhelmed by an economic crisis. But, as Stephen Vines reports, the people who run the government are showing few signs of recognising the gravity of the situation.

A sharp recession is already starting to take its toll on Hong Kong, but in government circles there is a pervasive sense of smug complacency.

An opinion poll conducted last week showed a sharp dip in public confidence in the economy. Last summer more than 80 per cent of those polled were expressing confidence. The recent poll showed that 60 per cent still felt able to remain optimistic. This is a low figure by Hong Kong standards, because people here tend to be resolutely bullish.

The reasons for pessimism are not hard to find, although official statistics have yet to reflect the problems. Carrie Lee, who runs a stationery business, said: "We just sit around at the moment, waiting for the phone to ring. Everyone is being very careful; they don't even want to spend money on paper." The owner of a hitherto successful graphic-design business said he had cut staff and moved the rest of the business into one floor. He used to occupy three, "After October business just dried up; our cash flow disappeared. I've never seen it

so bad." Even in the financial secwere the order of the day, layoffs are gathering pace: one to high inflation, raising Hong

laid off a third of its staff. A slump in tourism, one of Hong Kong's biggest currency earners, is producing redundancies in hotels and restaurants. The Japanese owned Yaohan department-store chain, one of the biggest in the territory, has gone into liquidation, throwing 1,000 people out of work.

A newspaper poll yesterday showed 75 per cent of employees surveyed feared they would lose their jobs. Interest rates are rising to historically high levels as a result of what is increasingly looking like a panicky reaction by the monetary authorities to counter speculation against the local currency. This is squeezing the business sector and causing pain for holders of modest home loans.

The property market has responded rapidly to the interest-rate rise, with transactions practically grinding to a halt and prices plunging by as much as a third. A mediumsized estate-agent chain went into liquidation.

In these circumstances the administration might have been expected to show some appreciation of the problem.

But Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive, keeps reiterating that "everything is

Sir Donald Tsang, his financial secretary, recently predicted "the dust might settle down by Christmas". He refuses to admit that the economy is in decline and sticks to his forecast of 5.5 per cent growth for the coming

This is treated with incredulity by some local coonomists. The conservative Hang Seng Bank, for example, is predicting growth of no more than 4 per cent. Sir Donald's target could be met only by an infusion of Keynesian-style government intervention, which would probably mean a mastor, where bumper bonuses sive public-housing construction splurge, which would lead

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Hutu slaughter of 200 Tutsis reopens Rwanda's wounds

Hutu rebels in Rwanda appear to be stepping up their attacks on Tutsi survivors of the 1994 genocide. Brennan Linsley of Associated Press reports from Kigali on the latest atrocity.

Suspected Hutu rebels attacked a camp for Tutsi refugees in north-western Rwanda yesterday, killing as many as 200 people.

The attackers raided about 100 tents in refugees from the Masisi area in neighbouring Congo, according to Paula Ghedini, spokeswoman for the United Nations attack on a jail. High Commissioner for Refugees. The

Rwandan military put the death toll at 230. The marauders used hand grenades, machetes and guns during the 15-minute, early morning raid, said Colonel Kayumba Nyamwasa, a regional commander of Rwanda's Tutsi-led army.

Col Kayumba said soldiers had been unable to repel the attackers, who fled into Congo after the slaughter. The UNHCR requested medical supplies for about 200 wounded being treated at the hospital in Gisenyi, about 100 km north-west of the capital, Kigali.

camp since August, when more than 100 refugees were killed during a raid blamed on Hutu rebels.

The refugees had fled the Masisi region in mid-1996 to escape attacks by Hutu rebels, who were then based at the refugee camps in eastern Zaire, since renamed Congo.

Authorities say the rebels, responsible for the deaths of 500,000 minority Tutsis in Rwanda's 1994 Hutu genocide, have mixed with more than 1 million Hutu civil-

ians who returned to Rwanda late last year. Rwanda's Tutsi-led government blames the camp, which houses several thousand the rebels for a surge in violence in the north-western corner of Rwanda. Barely a week passes without a rebel ambush or an

Yesterday's attack coincided with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's one-day visit to Kigali, where she met President Pasteur Bizimungu and Vice President Paul Kagame.

Ms Albright said: "There is clearly room for improvement in the human rights record for Rwanda. Given the history of the genocide ... we understand how difficult it must be for them. A lot has been done already (to improve human rights) but they have a long way to go."

Ms Albright said the US was determined to help Rwanda come to terms with the af-



Photograph: Jeff Wright/Reuters which is 80mm long and weighs 35 grams. It is seen here alongside the common roach

Chileans run away from election duty

Chileans hid in bushes, climbed up poles, locked themselves in bathrooms, feigned illnesses and alleged they could not read or write to avoid being pressed into electoral inspection duties vesterday.

The mid-term legislative election was delayed in many of the 28,523 polling stations as au-thorities failed to find enough citizens willing to serve as inspectors. Officials said the difficulties were especially felt in Santiago, where media reported that people hid from soldiers guarding the polling stations.

Carlos Figueroa, the interior minister, who organised the election, was unable to cast his ballot because his polling station lacked the required number of inspectors.

Figueroa told reporters that electoral authorities would have to enforce a law which stipulates that the first three citizens who show up to vote must be appointed as inspectors, unless they have a valid reason not to.

Voting is mandatory for Chile's 8.6 million registered voters. Polisters, however, have forecast that one-third of the electorate could cast void ballots or not even bother to vote. - Reuters, Santiago

Netanyahu's wife comes under fresh press attack

The wife of Benjamin Ne- Sara Netanyahu kept an office tanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, was thrust into the eye of another storm in Israel yesterday over a newspaper report which alleged that she had abused her position and tormented subordinates.

Mr Netanyahu's office issued blanket denial of the claims made about his 39-year-old wife Sara by Yedioth Ahronoth. Israel's best-selling daily. A spokesman said: "We don't react to such gossip." The report, which dominated radio chat shows for hours, was the latest

salvo against the first lady. Among the allegations, attributed to unnamed officials

in the prime ministry building. two secretaries and a media adviser, at the taxpayers' expense.

The newspaper also alleged that she had fired three nannies and two secretaries since Mr Netanyahu took office 18 months ago, thrown shoes at a housekeeper because they weren't polished properly and forced erstwhile friends to ad-

dress her as "Mrs Netanyahu". Mr Netanyahu, who put his family in the spotlight during an American-style election campaign last year, has portrayed Sara, his third wife, as the victim of a hostile press and a noholds-harred opposition.

Floods kill 81 in Somalia

Floods in Somalia have killed 81 The Clinton administration inmore people, bringing the death toll to almost 1.700 since rain began to deluge eastern and southern Somalia in late September,

aid agencies said yesterday. More than 230,000 people have been displaced and almost 30,000 livestock are reported killed, according to a statement by the Nairobi-based Somalia Aid Co-ordination Body (SACB).

Aid officials, who collate daily casualty figures, say floodrelated diseases such as malaria account for an increasing

US to tackle computer bug

tends to order more than a dozen federal agencies to redirect hundreds of millions of dollars in their technology budgets to fix the year 2000 computer problem, an administration official said yesterday.

Many old programs that recognise dates in two-digit formats - "97" for 1997 - will run awry as the century turns, unable to distinguish 2000 from 1900. The government may spend up to \$4bn (£2.5bn) to avert widespread government computer crashes from the so - AP. Washington





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Cherry-picking Europe expands eastward



joining the club: Citizens of Tallinn, Estonia, and nine other former Soviet bloc countries will soon be welcomed to the European Union fold

Photograph: K Gillham

European Union leaders meet in Luxembourg today to start the process of admitting millions of central and East Europeans to the bloc. But divisions over monetary union, Turkey, and a row about the money to pay for expansion could momentous occasion in the post-Cold War era, reports Katherine Butler.

The people of 10 former Sovietbloc countries as well as the Turks and Cypriots are clamcomputer ou ouring to be admitted to the most powerful economic club in

the world. By the time they leave Luxembourg tomorrow evening. EU leaders having grappled first with a dispute over Britain's tain. The Latvians, Lithuanians, exclusion from the new single have agreed an enlargement strategy which picks the cherries off the east European tree. They will invite the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians, Slovenians and Estonians, as well as the Cypriots, all of whom have been judged ready to enter negotiations on 31 March.

After years of wrangling new dividing lines in Europe if they start with just a chosen few, the selective approach appears to have won out. The Swedes and Danes are set to drop demands that all three Baltic states be brought in to the bloc at the same pace.

But the deal will be packaged in such a way as to mollify the disappointed East Europeans, allowing them to claim that they are not being shut behind what the Foreign Secretary

Robin Cook calls a Velvet Cur-

Slovaks, Bulgarians and Romanians will be officially declared candidates and admitted in March alongside the frontrunners to a "screening" procedure under which their economies will be vetted against the European "acquis" - the 90,000 pages of single market legislation which all applicants have to take on board.

grade. But a longstanding dilemma over Turkey, which first applied to join the EU in 1963, could still hijack the summit. Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis has threatened to veto plans to invite Turkey to a standing "European Conference" originally conceived as a grand launch of the enlargement process, for all applicants. It will be opened by the

Queen in London in February.

Turkey's inclusion was de-

signed to give Ankara the impression it, too, was part of the "European family" - even though few member states are comfortable about the prospect of Turkish membership because of the country's relative poverty,

its size and religious make-up.

To appease Athens, the other leaders may have to agree that the standing conference will seek to tighten links between all In theory any of them will be "European" countries on such tions as soon as they make the drug trafficking and crime but make no reference whatsoever to EU enlargement. That formula would however rob the conference of any meaning since the Council of Europe already exists to promote loose

> governments. Tony Blair, who was lobbied by the Turkish prime minister earlier this week, will be among those leaders who will insist that Turkey be given equal billing as a potential EU member. Britain

links between 40 European

considers it essential to keep alive membership hopes as a way of boosting pro-Western reformists and dampening the rise of Islamic fundamentalism.

For Ankara, a declaration from the summit of Turkey's eligibility as an official "candidate" on the same criteria as other applicants would be a victory. But the Greeks hold a veto on this and are seeking to add a further

Potentially even more explosive to the whole enlargement plan is its impact on the EU's hugely expensive farm and regional aid policies. Spain, the biggest beneficiary of grant aid from the bloc's structural funds, fears that the admission of countries where telephones are still a luxury will squeeze the existing poorer regions. The Spanish reject the proposal that a tight budget ceiling to cover expenditure

Luxembourg conclusions. But Germany, despite wanting to see its eastern neighbours admitted as soon as possible, is money beyond what is generated by a projected EU growth rate of 2.5 per cent.

The Germans, who pay most of the EU's bills, have already demanded a rebate on their own budget contributions and are resisting any radical reforms to the even though enlargement would double the number of

farmers dependent on it. The French, fearing that enlargement will push the EU's cumbersome decision making machinery into paralysis, want a pledge from the summit that internal reforms will be carried out before any new members are admitted. This would involve a hugely controversial shake-up to voting strengths and national representation in the up to 2006 be written into the European Commission.

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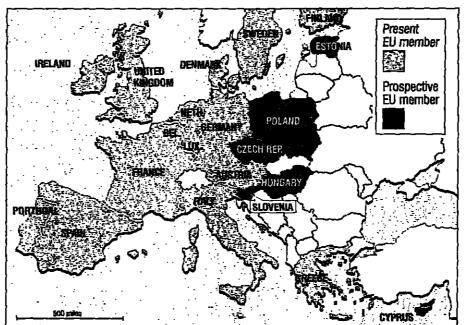
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Bigger and bigger: How the class of '51 made it to 15



Hungary, Slovenia and Estonia

and Cyprus.

First, there were six. The original European Coal and Steel Community treaty in 1951 was signed by Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

The same countries signed twelve. up in 1957 to the Treaties of Rome, which established the European Economic Community, the forerunner of today's European Union.

ment: East. Then there were nine. After protracted negotiations. Denmark. Ireland and the United Kingdom became members in 1973, taking the EC outside its the Arctic Circle. historic continental heartland and beginning, some would ar-

Nine became ten in 1981.

gue, all the problems of the last

when Greece, newly liberated That would take it to twenfrom military rule, was admitty-one members by the beginning of the next century. ted, the first in a southwards But there are six other ap-

plicants, which are not deemed Spain and Portugal joined ready yet to begin membership in 1986, taking the total to negotiations. Five are from Central and Two became one in 1990.

Eastern Europe - Slovakia, Bulwhen West Germany unified garia, Romania, Latvia and with East Germany, adding a Lithuania. The sixth is Turkey, whole new direction of movewhich is a more distant prospect Fifteen is the current total, for membership. That would take membership to twentyafter Austria, Finland and Sweden joined in 1995, taking the seven. Other past applicants include Norway, which rejected EU to the borders of Russia and the idea in a referendum, Malta, which has also cooled to the The next step is to deal with idea, Morocco and Switzertive East European applicants - Poland, the Czech Republic, land. If all the applicants were

to join, the EU would have 30

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PRET MONTHS

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Defence ministry aided neo-Nazi 'Aryan' project

The German government is under fire over the army's links to neo-Nazis. Imre Karacs

reports from Bonn on the latest revelations.

The German Defence Minister was yesterday accused of misleading parliament over army donations to a neo-Nazi led organisation which seeks to repopulate East Prussia with Aryan stock.

On Wednesday Volker Rühe had told the Bundestag's defence committee that his ministry had been unaware that the beneficiary of its largesse had been the convicted neo-Nazi terrorist Manfred Roedel. But according to an investigative report aired on national television last night, Roeder's name appeared on the begging letters sent to the ministry.

Roeder, one of the bestknown neo-Nazis in Germany, a multitude of crimes, including arson at a refugee home which claimed the lives of two Vietnamese immigrants. According

to the television report, he had first approached the defence ministry in 1993, three years after his release from jail.

Roeder wanted help for his organisation – a registered charity – to conduct "humanitarian work" in the Kaliningrad region of Russia, formerly known as Königsberg. The aim of the "charity" was never concealed: to gather ethnic Germans from all over the former Soviet Union in the now Russified city of Kaliningrad.

At the recommendation of the German foreign ministry. Roeder received from the army a van and two smaller vehicles, as well as tools and smaller donations. In 1995 Roeder was invited to lecture at the Bundeswehr academy about his "humanitarian" work.

"Roeder's appearance at the Academy shows that we are unfortunately not dealing with just a couple of drink-crazed thugs in uniform," commented retired general Gerd Schmückhad spent eight years in jail for le yesterday. "The scandal reveals staggering weaknesses in leadership at the Hardthöhe

[Defence Ministry]." Mr Rühe's assertion is that elections next September.

Roeder had somehow duped his way into the Academy, and nobody noticed with whom they were dealing. Furthermore, the defence ministry claims that the vehicles for Roeder's "charitable" work were obtained by another member of the organisation not noted for neo-Nazi activities. Germany keeps detailed lists of political extremists, which are circulated to all

where in the top 10 of these lists. If it emerges that the ministry had dealt with Roeder in person in its official correspondence, Mr Rühe's last line of defence sheer stupidity - collapses. In vesterday's heated parliamentary debate, the Green MP Angelika Beer directly accused the

government departments.

Roeder would have been some-

minister of lying. The Greens and the Social Democrats are jointly calling for a parliamentary inquiry, bevond the independent inquest ordered by Mr Rühe.

Once regarded as one of two possible successors to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr Rühe's political prospects now appear limited to hanging on until



Goose is cooked for traditional foie gras producers

as the source of foie gras, the consumed in France at the agriculture ministry said. Christmas, the government reported yesterday.

Ducks have waddled past geese from force-fed birds - came be force-fed by hydraulic or from ducks last year compared gourmet paté treat traditional- to about 540 tonnes from geese.

This year, it added, even traditional methods, bringing more would come from ducks them up in the farmyard and More than 10,000 tonnes of because they grew faster, need-stuffing whole grains down their foie gras - the fat-laden liver ed little cage space and could throats on an individual basis.

oneumatic machines.

Most of the farms raising geese to produce foie gras use

Little foie gras is consumed outside France. A few dozen tonnes are exported to Japan, but the United States bans imports on the grounds that the force-feeding process constitutes cruelty to animals.

Grave Yeltsin appears on television

President Boris Yeltsin appeared on Russian television yesterday a day after going down with an acute viral infection and being ordered by his doctors to rest.

The Kremlin said the 66-year old president's illness was not serious but Mr Yeltsin had to cancel plans to record a radio broadcast to mark today's Constitution Day public holiday.

The official television footage, released without sound, showed Mr Yeltsin greeting his chief-of-staff, Valentin Yumashev, at the Barvikha sanatorium outside Moscow, where the president is expected to stay for

up to 12 days. Mr Yeltsin moved relatively freely but looked grave and did not smile.

"The president is in some discomfort and has a temperature of 37.3C," said a Kremlin

Bulgarian President Petar Stovanov, who had been due to visit Moscow next week, told reporters in Sofia he had spoken for 20 minutes by telephone with Mr Yeltsin yesterday and that his trip had been postponed until February or March.

The Kremlin dismissed a Western media report saying Mr Yeltsin had suffered a renewed bout of heart trouble.

sty tunes in f

Spanish tycoons chip in to keep their king at sea in some style of Saudi Arabia, is usually lands' regional authorities, that Spain's royals, like their

British counterparts, have a problem with their clapped-out yacht. But for King Juan Carlos, help may be at hand. Elizabeth Nash reports.

King Juan Carlos vesterday Palace near Madrid a delegation want to buy him a new yacht to bank, whose boss, Mario er. replace his much-loved but age- Conde, tried to give the yacht neurs from the Balearies have declined the offer from the cal failures in its 18-year history. set up a Cultural Tourism Fund man who was shortly to be Perhaps the worst moment for to raise 3bn pesetas (£13m) for sacked in disgrace, and who is the purpose in appreciation of on trial for fraud. the King's help in boosting the image of their islands.

The royal family holiday every year in their summer palace. Marivent, on Mallorca, the King in 1979 by King Fahd ed by an offer, backed by the is- in the engine room.

moored. It has provided count- seems unlikely to arouse conless photo-opportunities for troversy. visiting dignitaries from Diana, Princess of Wales to Bill and Hillary Clinton.

der the new craft to be made ready for the summer of 1999. orning. The 25 entrepre- to the King as a present. But he

Unlike Britain's royals, who will be done with the Britannia. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia have no private fortune of King's Cup regatta after a prowhere the Fortuna, given to their own. They must be tempt-

The tycoons are mostly men from humble beginnings who have in 30 years made fortunes The businessmen want to or- from the economic revolution that transformed the islands of Mallorca, Minorca, Ibiza, For-It will be constructed on the mentera and Cabrera into one lines of one built for the king in of world's most popular tourist welcomed to the Zarzuela 1992 but which for reasons of destinations. Their leader, economy he declined. The ship- Gabriel Barcelo, who runs a hoof Spanish businessmen who yard was owned by Banesto tel chain, started as a busdriv-

Fortuna has suffered a numthe King was in 1988, when, with the Prince of Wales on board. the yacht had to be towed into are awaiting a decision on what the Mallorcan port of Soller by two fishing boats. In 1995 Fortuna had to withdraw from the peller fault caused an explosion



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£100,000+	6.51	5.20	£25,000+	5.37	4.29
£250,000+	6.65	5.32	£50,000+	5.85	4.68
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Grave Yeltsin *Ppears on elevision

Ex-chairman damns Opera House report

Lord Chadlington, who quit as chairman of the Royal Opera House last week, has angrily hit back at a scathing parliamentary report which forced his resignation. Alexandra Williams looks at the accusations directed at Gerald Kaufman, head of the Commons Culture Committee.

Last week the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee delivered a damning indicament of the management at one of is insulting in the extreme." Britain's greatest cultural insti-

The running of Covent Garden was "chaotic" and a "shambles" and the embattled board was told to resign.

The chairman of the board, in its 51 years, "run by a Philiscord Chadlington, duly did so tine with the requisite financial the day after the blistering 20- acumen than by the succession page publication, saying that of opera and ballet-lovers who

was the honourable thing to do. His resignation speech was measured: "In the end I felt I don't want to be regarded as a received £78m lottery money public figure who sits on the and an annual subsidy of more

fence until someone pushes than £14.5m but has an operatthem off. I've been there only a year, but the responsibility lies with the board. I must give a lead, as a matter of honour."

However, yesterday he furiously hit back at the "hysterical hyperbole" of the report, accusing the Committee of a "gross abuse" of its privileges for attacking "on the flimsiest of evidence and innuendo" publicspirited people who freely gave their time and money to the cause. Writing in The Speciator magazine, under the headline "Gerald, you're wrong ... and hysterical too", he said: "The language in which the committee's report is written - of which Mr Kaufman seems so proud -

The committee of 11, chaired by Mr Kaufman, the Labour MP, launched the inquiry in July. It concluded that it would prefer to see the House, facing the worst financial crisis have brought a great and valu-

able institution to its knees." The Royal Opera House has

ing deficit of £4.5m, which is expected to double by the end of 1999. Last month the second rescue package this year saved the house from insolvency.

Yesterday, speaking from Florida, Lord Chadlington said: "The Speciator article was extremely easy to write because it just flowed and is exactly how I feel. Enormous strides have already been made in putting the House in order and as for the exclusivity of House that's the very thing I was addressing."

Whilst he accepted that change was needed, he said he had already initiated much change, particularly in financial controls, management information and corporate governance. He implied that he felt the committee had abused its powers by hounding people out of office and discrediting the efforts of management rather than just advising government.

Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, is expected to make an announcement concerning the future of the House next week. A department spokeswoman said: "Lord Chadlington's comments are his personal opinion, not something we would like to comment on.



Consuming passion: This year's festive offering by London's Tate Gallery, called Christmas Tree 1997, by Michael Landy, 34, symbolises society's waste. Called a 'deeply moral work', its features include a Teletubby, plastic bags and a pizza box. Some items will be recycled. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

BBC to tape the people's 20th century

The BBC has unveiled the first of its plans to mark the millennium. Paul McCann, Media Correspondent, explains why its scope may give a voice to those who history has ignored.

The BBC is to produce the biggest oral history archive in the country by recording nearly 3,000 hours of people talking about their lives during the 20th century as part of its plans to mark the millennium.

Up to 500 hours of the archive will be broadcast on BBC local radio in 1999, while the rest will be made available to the Millennium Dome, the British Library, local libraries and touring exhibitions.

As well as the fim-oral history, which will be broadcast in 2000, the corporation has commissioned a £5m, 16-part history of Britain which will be written and presented by Simon Schama, professor of history at Columbia University in New York.

The oral history project will be compiled by the BBC's 38 local radio stations in England and the radio stations in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. The plan is to talk to young and old people about their lives at various times during the century. The interviews will be used to build up an archive of social history that can be accessed by CD-Rom and audio tape.

Michael Green, former controller of Radio 4, who is to direct the project, said: "The factor that makes this unique, apart from its sheer scale, is the way it will focus on social histories. It will not be about how Governments fell, but about the everyday lives of everyday people in every corner of the land."

Dr Simon Szreter, lecturer in social history at Cambridge University, said: "It's colossal. Oral history is important because it gives you access to areas of history that are neglected by formal documents. It gives insights on the history of the working class, the history of women, or children or the history of sexuality. This is undoubtedly a very good initiative."

For BBC television the millennium will be marked by a history of Britain since the Romans. It too will cover the history of how people lived. Professor Schama said: "It's time for the popular medium of our time - television - to reintroduce the astonishing history of Britain's past, big with glory and disaster, misery and splendour, to a new generation. It's time to rediscover the meaning of being British."

Kirsty tunes in for £500,000

Newsreader Kirsty Young's po- Ross and Carol McGriffin, will sition as the brightest thing on Channel 5 was confirmed yesterday when Talk Radio signed er up to present its daily mentinterviews and phone ins. breakfast show in a deal worth across a number of outlets at the

Young, 28, will continue to present the Channel 5 evening has been praised for its new apnews, where she has made a success of a unique format that involves her perching on a desk news agenda dictated less by and walking around the studio. Westminster reports and con-Radio's breakfast show, Paul interest" items. In a separate ent audiences.

erest

move to Talk's weekend morning show. The breakfast show is a mixture of news, entertain-

£500,000. It marks a growing understood to have been aptrend for broadcasters to work proaching Young, but she recently signed a new contract to stay with Channel 5 until 2000. The channel's news programme proach: the format less formal, with shorter news items and the

boost yesterday, the news show picked up the Royal Television Society's craft and design award for the look of the show. Its style is designed to attract

Other news programmes are a younger audience than traditional programmes and the show has been getting respectable ratings of around half a million. The distinctiveness of the show was confirmed last month, when the Independent Television Commission allowed Channel 5 to move Young's news to 7pm from January, the same time as Channel 4's news. ecause they serve very differ-Paul McCann





Nobody knows the fate of Camilla Carr and Jon James but ction, writes Jack O'Sullivan, has been added to silent hope.

This Christmas, Alexandra Little will be tucked up in her comfortable house with husband and four children. For the 41-year-old ex-model, with her alarmingly perfect white teeth and coiffured hair. there will be all the expensive pleasures that success in the advertising world provide in the Surrey stockbroker belt.

Meanwhile, her sister Camilla Carr may well, if she is still alive, be stuck in a freezing cell in some devastated quarter of Grozny, the prisoner of Chechen bandits who kidnapped her and Jon James, her partner, last July.

The Carr sisters are very different creatures. If they weren't related, perhaps they wouldn't want to know each other. When they were at public school in Shrewsbury, Camilla, jaunty and earnest with her long curly hair, was head of hockey, while her sister preferred to hide in the art room ("I hated all sport"). Afterwards Alexandra plunged lucratively into the commercial world of Soho advertising, while Camilla went off to Amsterdam to put on what Alexandra now remembers as "very wild, no I can't use that word, let's say 'avant garde' plays." She later became a respected sculptor. In Jon James she found a kindred spirit. The son of a Gloucestershire postman, he has spent much of his life involved in alternative therapies and has particular interests in Native American and Celtic cultures. An outdoor type, at the age of 10 he famously canoed the Severn tidal bore. "He only ever wants enough money to live on," says his mother, Doris.

Alexandra remembers a winter visit the pair made to her weekend cottage at Lyme Regis. "They just peeled off and ran down for a swim in the sea. It was the middle of February. Even my Norweigian au pair was amazed.'

Still, it wasn't easy for Alexandra to understand why, last April, Camilla decided to drive across Europe with James, 37. to Grozny. Each left a young son behind. They took an old Lada. The family still marvels at a photograph of them crouched over a stove just after they had arrived in Grozny: "No key, no electricity, so we make tea," is scribbled on the

Now Camilla's survival, and her abducted partner's, could depend on Alexandra's ability to wage a campaign of which Jill Morrell would be proud.

It started this week, when families of the kidnapped couple held a special service at St James', Piccadilly. The opening hymn was Camilla's favourite -"Lord of the Dance", dozens of candles were lit by the congregation and everyone held hands for a "magic squeeze" that rippled through the congregation. Terry Waite reminded the families of an occasion when his wife read newspaper headlines saying he was dead. Never believe anything you hear until it is confirmed, he advised. John McCarthy spoke. "If they get any hint," he said, "that we are all here launching this cam-



Waiting: Alexandra Little has had no news of her sister Camilla (below) for months. Below right, Camilla with Jon James in Grozny Brian Harris

paign, it will give them a huge amount

of support and encouragement." For five months the family had remained silent about the kidnap in accordance with the Foreign Office's desires; they had hoped that working behind the scenes would do the trick. But when that policy failed even to confirm

Blur will help us," says Alexandra.

Although Camilla's brother. Raj. is involved, as is the family of Jon James. Alexandra is the central figure. Her husband, David Little, creative director of the London advertising agency Davies. Little Cowley, has helped organise the campaign. He's strong-jawed with a

their feet on the ground." It was always so. Camilla and Alexandra's father was an Old Etonian bomber pilot in the Second World War, whose wife Helen supplied the bohemian strain, graduating from the Slade School of Fine Art. She is descended from Thomas Cobbe, a British army officer who famously mar-

ried an Indian Udaipur in the last century and died on his journey back to Ircland leaving her with 10 children. Camilla took after her mother's side of the family. The pair share interests in spiritual healing and Sufiism. "Camilla and I," says the mother proudly. "travelled together to Rajastan in 1994 to a conference held

by the Brahma Ni

maris to promote world peace." Lask Alexandra how she is coping with the kidnap, "There are days and days when you don't sleep," she says, "and then days when all you do is sleep because you are so tired. I had a lot of nightmares, especially at the beginning, imagining that Camilla was in a dark wet cave. More re-

know why, but I just feel it. It is more than likely that she has been moved. Maybe they have been sold on by their kidnappers for financial reasons.

"Hearing about the kidnap was a terrible shock. I had been to my daughter's speech day. We had beard on the car radio that a British married couple had been kidnapped in Chechnya, but I put it out of my mind because Jon and Camilla aren't married. Then when I got home about six, my mother-in-law was on the phone and said. Turn on the television immediately. It's Camilla - I think she's been kidnapped.' So I turned the television on and I could see Camilla's face staring out at me."

The sisters had spoken only a few days before, when Camilla had been in Moscow, buying furniture for The Little Star, the centre for rehabilitating traumatised children, run under the auspices of the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development, a Quaker aid organisation. "There seemed to be no hint of danger. They seemed to be OK. They asked me to puv tennis racquets and sent them over to the children. I was just about to buy them when the news came

This Christmas, their families hope the have gathered during unconventional lives looked after in better conditions. I don't - urbia will finally secure their release.

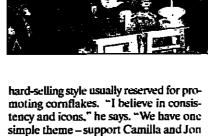
Kidnapping Westerners has exploded into a multi-million dollar business, says Phil Reeves in Moscow

red Root

1 Eden-Gree

Jon James and Camilla Carr are caught in the jaws of a ruthless underworld business that has deep historical roots in Chechnya, but exploded into a multi-million dollar racket in bartering humans after the end of the republic's war with Russia. Scores of people, including international aid workers and journalists, have this year been abducted by kidnappers whose motives may be tangled with the complex politics of the Caucasus, but hinge on the hope of netting a seven-figure sum. Although a few outsiders have made discreet visits to Chechnya in recent months, a wave of kidnappings has turned the former war zone into a destination that is considerably more dangerous for foreigners than it was when the bombs were raining down during the 21-month conflict which flattened the capital, Grozny. The plight of the British pair is not helped by the fact that in a number of cases - despite routine official denials - cash has been handed over by international and Russian organisations in return for releases. The standard price on a Western head is \$1m. Kidnappers of three members of the French charity EquiLibre, are believed to have received \$3m in return for their freedom. There is also little doubt that large sums have been paid to free abducted Russian journalists, who included a celebrated reporter, Yelena Masyuk. Foreign Office policy is to refuse to pay ransoms, but a troublesome precedent has been set. If the ordeal of another captive is any guide, the Britons' conditions are likely to bear an unpleasant resemblance to the Beirut experiences of two men now supporting their publicity campaign back home. Terry Waite and John McCarthy Christophe André, a French aid worker with Médicins Sans Frontières (MSF), was held in captivity for four months before he reportedly managed to escape from his cell in October and, after trekking through the countryside for several hours, hitched a ride back into Grozny. The conditions were grim. MSF later revealed he was almost always chained to a wall in a boarded-up room, being released for a mere 30 minutes a day to wash. His diet consisted of vegetable soup, and bread three times a day. Occasionally, he was given eggs, meat or rice but the food was so meagre that he lost three stone. He received no change of clothing, he was only ever able to wash his entire body a handful of times. Using tactics common in the Lebanon, he was moved four times during his captivity, presumably because his jailers wanted to avoid detection. In realtremely difficult. The separatists' government is in chaos, and depends on volunteer former fighters to carry out hostage searches. It is a rural mountainous republic, dotted with villages whose large brick houses, plentiful food supplies, and clannish communities, make it an easy place to hide someone until the price is

that the couple were alive, the family decided it was time to make a move. And now, the FO, nervous of seeming laggardly - as they did over the McCarthy kidnap - smartly despatched their minister. Baroness Symons, to sit in the front row at the service. Further Christmas rock elements." church events are planned, along with T-



- and one great photo that is being used everywhere. These are the two stick-of-

David Little has an equally candid take shirts, concerts and a record - "We're hopon the Carr family. "They range from ing that a really well-known group like complete free spirits to people with

great physical and spiritual strength they will carry them through the kidnap ordeal. But Camilla Carr and Jon James cently. I have felt that she is being must be praying that the voices of sub-

THE INDEPENDENT

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22 December 1997 - Usual Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final

Why, despite everything, I could never mind the Gap

Was it the party invitation that did the trick? Not really. No, it was the photograph of course. To you it may just be a baby. To Gap it may just be a customer. But to Rosie Millard it is a world superstar.

The woman in Gap Kids was quite clear. "There's a kid's party next Sunday in this branch," she said, wrapping up my daughter's white zip-up furry boots (size 0) and turquoise velour top, also zip-up, (size 3-6 months). "But it will be a nightmare, so come early." She gives me a special invitation. A Gift For You. "Have your child's photo taken and placed in a card modeled (sic) after our

"There'll be food, and face-painting. I won't be there. I'm leaving", continued the assistant with a manner implying she was more than a little weary of dealing with zip-up furry boots, size Midget. "I'm off to Jigsaw, I can't wait."

There's no doubt that if my daughter's life continues as it has begun, she will be very spoilt indeed. "But you can't really spoil a four-month-old." I claim, nervously laughing while hiding evidence of her latest toy/dress/batterydriven plastic mobile from the inspection of the nanny. And a photograph in the style of a Gap advert! It would be so perfect. "I mean, she has the clothes, so a matching photograph; it's only proper," I say to my husband as we pack a supply of emergency nappies and bottles for our weekend exodus to Gap Kids in Central London a fortnight before Christmas.

The shop, if anything, is more crowded than the pavement outside, Which is saying something since half the Western world appears to have

chosen this weekend to hit town. However, there ends the similarity. Everyone inside Gap Kids is toting a child. A woman of about 40 is prancing around in a fairy outfit. On a table are minute mince-pies and tiny biscuits shaped like holly leaves, presumably for children. Fathers are guiltily eating

I point to the lower ground floor; we need to go down to BabyGap, where instead of sweatpants for stubborn 10year-olds, the rails are full of dear little velvet dresses for malleable tinies. Gap Kids deals with placating children who want to be in an adult world; BahyGap is an empire designed for adults who want their children to look like something out of Peter Pan. And this is where the photographs are being taken. "We don't take pictures of anyone over five, really," says the assistant. "They don't fit in the studio." And they're not half as sweet either.

We spend the obligatory £15 (of which 20 per cent goes to Barnados, I remind myself) on a dear little snowflake jumper. And a matching hat, and socks. Well, by the end it comes to quite a lot more than 15 quid, but then you are helping charity. I remind my husband. We are then given a ticket and wait in line by the studio, where a man

called Russell is taking the photos. The studio has that all-white background into which the children are placed and which all Gap adverts have to have for that classless, timeless, placeless look. Will our daughter. Phoebe, look like one of those sweet children one sees on the side of a hus, laughing easily in their Gap hats and cardigans? I hope so, I also secretly hope a Gap talent-spotter in the shop might see how pretty she is and select her for a global campaign. I immediately banish the idea and think



snobbish thoughts about awful pushy parents like the mother of Brooke Shields.

A rather sweet girl of about three is posing in the White Studio. She is wearing Dame Edna-like pink plastic glasses with no lenses in. "Come along, Florence," says her mother testily. The flash fires, and that's it; the Gap Free Gift amounts to one Polaroid Instamatic snap which is then inserted into a "advert" card for you to take away. And let's not have any nonsense about hoardings on the sides of buses. The card in question is rather small. But never

Let's have a look at that Polaroid, I say to Florence's mother. I want to see how authentic this all is. The picture shows Florence beaming out of her pink plastic rims looking utterly sweet in that global village-esque manner that is so very Gap, "Of course, those glasses aren't necessary," says her mother, just

Phoebe in excelsis: she may not make an ad campaign but she makes a lovely Christmas card

in case I think her child suffers from some weird opthalmic condition necessitating lens-free glasses. "But she

won't take them off. Loves them." The session continues. There is Kylie, who screams all the time; Holly, who has to be placated with a special BahyGap hand puppet; Jason, who appears in a BabyGap leopard-print suit and haby Eva who is only eight weeks old, is propped up on a large pillow and clearly has no idea what on earth is going "EEEEva!" shouts her mother. Eva. hy accident, waves a tiny paw. The camera fires. Another child transmogrified into the clean world of

the Gap advert. Christmas music is piped all around us. Gap employees stand brushing bair and wiping faces of children lined up for their photographs. I wake Phoebe up and we solemnly put her into her new snowflake jumper and matching hat. She is carried into the white studio and propped up on the white pillow. I call her name. She sucks her fist and looks vaguely at Russell.

Afterwards, I look at the picture of my child; and I can't help it. I wish the result could be used in a worldwide bus campaign, I really do. I know all about pushy parents, but she just looks so perfect. Just like an official advert for BabyGap clothes worn by overprivileged children. "Maybe we could turn the picture into our Christmas card." I say hopefully when we get

حكتاب الاجل

Alfred Roome

Alfred Wallace Roome, film editor: born London 22 December 1908; married Janice Adair (died 1996; one daughter, and one son deceased) died Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire 19 November 1997.

Alfred Roome's career as a film editor spans virtually the whole history of mainstream British popular cinema: he began editing Aldwych farces, graduated to the classic Will Hay comedies and progressed - if that's the correct word through Will Fyffe, Arthur Askey and Ronald Shiner vehicles to three "Doctor" films and no less than 14 Carry Ons.

His other work includes a major feature for Alfred Hitchcock (The Lady Vanishes - surely the best of Hitch's British output?) plus editing for such major British directors as Anthony Asquith and Sir Carol Reed, while his working relationships with Launder and Gilliatt and Betty Box and Raiph Thomas embraced many the best films of these distinguished British producerdirector teams. Though everybody called him "Alfie", his screen credits began as A.W. Roome and ended as Alfred Roome.

Roome came from a Somerset family. His father was managing director of the Daily Mirror and family shares in the Mirror Group gave the youngster independent wealth. His father wanted young Alfie to follow him in the newspaper business, but Roome had been given a camera at an early age, and was smitten with the cinema. At school he began experimenting with projectors and 'amps, and founded his school ilm society. Sent to finish his education in Paris, he made amateur movies featuring his cousins.

To deter his ambition to work in the film industry, his father offered him a world cruise, but Alfie refused, and secured a job as assistant in the property department at Elstree in 1927, at the age of 18. His real goal was the editing department, and the producer Herbert Wilcox gave him the opportunity the following year to work as a cutting-room

assistant. However, when extra camera assistants were needed on Blackmail in 1929, Roome moved across to the studio floor, working for the first time with the and married Janice Adair, the leading lady of another British film concurrently shooting -Wallace - and they remained married until her death in 1996. Roome went back into the

cutting rooms, and fetched up as an assistant in 1933 at the Shepherd's Bush Lime Grove (1940) containing Peggy Ashstudios of Gaumont-British. where he achieved his cutting break, hired as editor on the film version of the famous Ben Travers Aldywch farce Thark (1933), starring Tom Walls and Ralph Lynn, directed by Walls and produced by Herbert Wilcox. This was followed by a sequence of six Tom Walls features which led to a reputation for comedy and a subsequent association with Will Hay, first (1935), then that memorable sequence of comedy classics featuring Hay and his associates "Old" Moore Marriott and the Fat Boy Graham Moffatt, most notably the timeless Oh, Mr Porter! (1939; recently rescreened to celebrate the Odeon Leicester Square's 60th birthday), Ask a Policeman (1938)

and Where's That Fire (1939). It became clear Roome had a natural aptitude for editing a specific style of British comedy. In 1938 he was hired for The Lady Vanishes for Alfred Hitchcock, establishing a relationship with the actors Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne. Roome also edited another key British film, the young Carol Reed's Bank Holiday (1938), which led to Reed's classics Kipps (1941) and The Young Mr Put (1942).

Interspersing these with a tun of popular films featuring the music-hall stars Flanagan and including Alf's Button Afloat (1937) and King Arthur was a version of Askey's radio show Band Waggon (1939). A more distinguished feature was Dr Syn starting George Arliss (1937).

While on Blackmail Roome met work being rightly deemed of national importance. Among the more significant shorts he edited were the seven-minute Mr Red Aces (1929), written and Proudfoot Shows a Light (1941) directed by the novelist Edgar starring the music hall's Sidney Howard, and the five-minute Rush Hour (1941) directed by Anthony Asquith, plus the unfairly neglected Dunkirk eightminute short Channel Incident

croft's finest screen moment, also directed by Asquith. Roome also functioned as an Air Raid Warden, and continued to edit major features including the propagandist Launder and Gilliatt Millions Like Us (1943) and their immensely popular Waterloo Road (1944), in which the climactic punch-up was a triumph of film editing, convincing audiences world-wide that five-foot-nothing puny hero editing Boys Will Be Boys John Mills could beat up sixfoot-plus muscular spiv Stewart Granger. His former assistant Frances Edge recalls that when an enemy bomb exploded shaking the Shepherd's Bush studios. Roome simply ignored it.

The Borstal saga Boys in Brown (1940) was the first Gainsborough film to be based at Pinewood; Montgomery Tully directed it but Roome was associate director. Roome also directed, in tandem with Roy Rich, a pair of Gainsborough features: the Jack Warner vehicle My Brother's Keeper and It's Not Cricket (both 1948), reuniting the duo of cricket lovers from The Lady Vanishes, Basil Radford and Naunton Wayne.

Although Roome did not direct again - "I had trouble dealing with actors" he said his contribution to cinema was undoubtedly greater than that of the majority of the directors for whom he edited, and after Allen and radio's Arthur Askey, a period as Associate Producas Christopher Columbus and Gentleman (1942) plus the film The Bad Lord Byron (both looked as if hardly any work had

With the outbreak of the Sec- wood: at Gainsborough he ond World War, Roome found worked for the studio head Sydhimself editing propaganda ney Box, brother of Betty E. Box. shorts for the Ministry of In- As producer, Box began a 20formation, and thus became year collaboration with the diyoung director Alfred Hitchcock. exempt from military service, his rector Ralph Thomas, while her husband Peter Rogers began an equally fruitful partnership with Thomas's brother Gerald. Today, the admirable Betty Box/ Raiph Thomas pictures are unfairly neglected while the success of the Peter Rogers/Gerald Thomas "Carry On" series has passed into legend. Alfred Roome's tenure at

Pinewood embraced many of the best of the Betty Box/Ralph Thomas output (and the worst three late "Doctor" comedies) including the painfully moving Conspiracy of Hearts (1960) and the courageous and politically outspoken No Love For Johnnie (1961), Roome's only feature in CinemaScope, plus any number of features invariably starring Dirk Bogarde, Kenneth More or Michael Craig. Ken Annakin was another

director Roome regularly worked with, and Annakin's best films, the very funny Hotel Sahara (1951) and the Graham Greene adaptation Across the Bridge (1957) owe much to him. Today as the craft of editing

is eroded by electronic machines offering an infinite variety of edits, it is worth recalling Alfie Roome's classic method of working: he used to view all the material needed for a sequence before starting editing, including both selected and nonselected takes, and then edited the sequence as he saw fit. It seldom changed much.

His former assistant Don Sharpe remembers that for the last part of the portmanteau film Trio (1951), called "Sanatorium", Roome's cut stood as assembled. "It went from his cut to neg cut," says Sharpe, "with no changes." Roome used to file his own trims with enormous exactitude, taking pains to ensure they all hung correctly to exactly the same sprocket hole on the trim bin. It er on such box-office disasters was said of Roome that he was so neat that his cutting room 1949), he returned to the cut- been done by the end of the day. ting rooms, working almost sole- Eventually he never worked ly for the unacknowledged overtime, nor had any need to, series moved to Pinewood with dynastic royal family of Pine- a far cry from his early days at the Foreign Legion romp Fol-



Islington and Shepherd's Bush when he worked all hours, and was grateful for the emergence of the film unions that called a halt to such exploitation.

He made few close professional friends, preferring not to socialise but to return home at the end of his working day, and although he lived close to Pinewood, he never went home for lunch, preferring not to disrupt his routine. However, he did buy his house from Sir John Mills, and a frequent visitor to his huge estate in Fulmer was his long-time friend from the Gainsborough days Phyllis Calvert.

When in 1967 the Peter Regers-produced "Carry On"

logical choice to edit it, a man well known for his flair with British comedy, a genuinely funny man himself, full of humorous anecdotes. It was followed by 13 successive Carry Ons including some of the best (Up the Khyber, 1968; Doctor, 1967; At Your Convenience 1971) and several of the worst 1975). This run was broken only by the film version of the television series Bless This House, also starring Carry On's

low That Camel, Roome was the

1930s, 1940s and 1950s. In 1972, while working on a Carry On, Roome bumped into Alfred Hitchcock, then engaged

Sidney James, a far cry from the

prestige Rank features of the

on Frenzy, in the corridors at Pinewood. Hitch greeted Alfie with one of his noted barbs of laconic sadism: "You're getting fatter, Roome," was all he said. After Carry On Behind in

1975 Roome retired, feeling he was no longer well enough to do justice to film, and in 1988 recorded his reminiscences for the Bectu Oral History Project. (Girls, 1973; Dick, 1974; Behind, A keen gardener, and avid amateur historian, his life was marred by tragedy when his son Christopher was killed in the appalling King's Cross station fire, almost 10 years to the day before Roome's own death.

A granddaughter, Olivia, continues the family tradition and works in the film industry.

Sean Hudson

Sean Hudson, photographe born Learnington Spa, Warwickshire 12 February 1935; died Edinburgh 3 December 1997.

"I hide behind my lens," said Scan Hudson. He spent his life as a photographer seeking to square his deeply held beliefs in fairness and social justice with the need to make a living in the commercial world. He happened to be in Bucharest in 1989 when he was swept up in the miners' march on Ceausescu's palace and recorded its sacking. One of the photographs he took then appeared on the front page of the Independent.

Adopted from a children's home aged two. Hudson attended the City of London School, and then the London School of Hotel Management. It was while he was doing National Service in Cyprus that a sergeant shoved a camera in his hands, and said: "Here, gunner, take this and record the riots.

Graduating in photography from Guildford School of Art and then the London School of Film Technique, he found his first job with Donald Alexander's film team making documentaries for the Coal Board. As a freelance his films ranged from the scientific record for an anthropological expedition to south-west Africa to a beautiful film for the Arts Council, The Romanian Brancusi, and, more commercially, Get Carter. His favourite work was with Ken Loach, in particular on the 1969 film Kes. Partly for research, partly as a political statement. Hudson refused to stay in the location film crew's hotel, instead finding lodgings with a local miner's family. Miners had a habit of featuring in his life.

The need to do more led him to work for the Workers' Revolutionary Party, then experiencing a boost from Vanessa Redgrave, but, eventually disillusioned, he fled London to start life again in Edinburgh. Initially be earnt his keep as a waiter, while establishing himself as a freelance photographer, specialising in drama. He was heavily involved in the Festival and in 1983 became its official photographer. He was in demand with Scotland's theatres, and Royal Shakespeare Company and the Brighton Festival, the Limoges Festival in France. and the Venice Biennale.

Typically, when asked to help some Romanian actors dismissed by the Ceausescu regime, he instantly agreed to go to Bucharest, for no fee, to produce the necessary publicity photographs to set up an independent theatre. It turned out that Mihaj Maniutiu was a brilliant director and when his company later toured the UK it received great acclaim. Such actions made Hudson friends, but not money.

Sean Hudson had a gift of openness and calm that put people at case, which contributed to his success both with performing artists and on a personal level, where he melted into one's family to become the firm friend of all generations.

Alan Eden-Green

Alan Beynon Eden-Green, sublic relations officer: born Stafford 12 April 1916; married 1939 Winifred Mead (two sons); died Larkfield, Kent 24 November 1997.

tinguished career in public relais family and the affection of his wonderful sense of humour.



Eden-Green: integrity

He was educated at the Roan School in Blackheath. but was denied study at a university because of the need to support his mother after his father's death. As a conscientious objector during the Second World War he performed vol-

Miss Tracy Austin, tennis player, 37;

Council in the blitz, driving mohile canteens and putting up Anderson shelters for the elderly. In 1949 he became Public

Relations Officer for Lambeth. the start of his career in public relations. Among his imaginative ideas later as PRO for Wedgwood from the mid-Fifties to early Sixties were those of demonstrating the strength of their bone china by having a bus placed on four upturned cups. and installing "Wedgwood Shops" within department stores. He resigned when the Wedgwood family and a less con-

genial business style prevailed. Eden-Green's great opportunity came when he joined British Oxygen (now BOC) in 1965 as Director of Public Affairs soon after Leslie (now Sir

untary work for Woolwich Leslie) Smith took over as thority became vested in peo- opening the way for the Speak- two of their sons and families Chairman. British Oxygen was one of those industrial dinosaurs which in the mid-Sixties sleepily bestrode the British scene. According to Smith, "Alan was prominent among the small group of senior managers who recognised the situation

and (successfully) met the chal-

lenge of revolutionary change." To British Oxygen Eden-Green brought a new concept of external public relations: openness and truth instead of short-term excuses and glosses. Internally he made a vital concompany passed out of the tribution to modernising the company's style of working: pompous bowlers and dark suits were out; forenames replaced "Mr or Mrs So-and-So"; managerial doors were kept open instead of shut. As

ple and not in their rank." In this new atmosphere ideas and imagination flourished. Eden-Green brought the

same concern for truth and integrity to his work for the Institute of Public Relations, of which he was a founder member in 1948 and President in 1961. He played a decisive part in turning public relations into a profession with a rigorous Code of Practice - and at the same time winning acceptance that public relations was central to the functions of management.

After retirement from BOC Eden-Green brought all this experience to the eventual launching of the Industry and Parliament Trust in 1977. His patience and obvious sincerity enabled the new trust to win all-Smith says: "Respect and au- party parliamentary support,

er and other officials of the House to be associated with it. They also enabled the trust to win the active participation of a widely representative industrial membership. In 1984 he was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the trust by its then President, Bernard (now Lord) Weatherill, Speaker of the House of Commons.

With Winifred, his muchloved wife. Eden-Green enjoyed a long and happy marriage and a richly fulfilled family life, first in Blackheath (where he made an "adventure-playground" pirate ship in the garden for his four boys), later in Teddington, where his motor cruiser was moored in the creck ready for a voyage to some jolly Thameside pub, and lastly in Lunsford in Kent where he, Winifred, and

lived in a cluster of old farm buildings. These centres of warm and open hospitality were the focuses of an astonishingly wide and varied circle of friends. Alan Eden-Green was a man of wide reading and great intel-

lectual curiosity. During the Second World War he helped his wife to produce and send out Vera Brittain's pamphlets, Letters from a Peace-lover, and in 1988 the two of them jointly edited a book of Brittain's letters under the title Testament of a Peace Lover. Although he remained a convinced pacifist to the end of his life (a mark of his generous optimism about human nature). he was none the less immensely curious about war and its causes, and he and I used to have long debates on the topic.

Alan Eden-Green capped a dis-

tions by playing a key role in the initial creation and later success of the Industry and Parliament Trust, which has done much to foster mutual understanding between two very different worlds. To his professional life he brought the same special qualities which won him the love of nany friends - sincerity, integrity, generosity of spirit, conscientiousness in thought and duty, and all combined with a

Announcements for Gazette

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES

time telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

ay need The Duke of Kent. Chancel

For Surrey University, presides over a con-terment of degrees ceremony, Guildford,

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-ment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at

Changing of the Guard

Horse Guards, i Juni.

Birthdays

DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Mar-Mr Lionel Blair, dancer and enter-tainer, 66: Maj-Gen Sir Rupert riages, Deaths, Memoriai services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memoriam) should be sent in writ-Brazier-Creagh, lormer Director of Staff Duties, War Office, 88; Mr Will ing to the Gazette Editor, The In-Carling, England rugby player, 32; Miss Denise Coffey, actress, direcdependent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London El4 SDL, telephoned to 0171-293 2012 (24-hour answering machine 0171-273 2011) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 66.50 a line tor and writer, 61: Mr Jasper Conran, fashion designer, 38; Kenneth Cranham, actor, 53: The 67: Mr William Ebbert, chairman and (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette managing director, Vauxhall Moannouncements (notices, func-tions, Forthcoming marriages, tors, 55: Mr Emerson Fittipaldi, rac ing driver, 51; Miss Connie Francis, Marriages) must be submitted in singer, 59; Mr Roy Granthum, forwriting (or faxed) and are charged mer National Secretary, Apec, 71; Air Commodore Dame Felicity Hill, forat £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daymer Director, WRAAF, S2: Dr Philip Ledger, principal, Royal Scottish my of Music and Drama, N Mr Christopher Mullin MP, 50; Mr Frank Sinatra, singer and actor, 82; Mr Clive Thornton, chairman, The Prince of Wales, on behali of The Melton Mowbray Building Society. olds an Investiture at Bucking Queen, holds an Investigate at Backang-hum Paluce. The Duke of Edinburgh, Ad-mural of the Fleet, usits HMS (Jeen) at 68: The Right Rev John Wakeling, former Bishop of Southwell, 79: GEC Marine VSEL Burnst Shippard. Miss Dionne Warwick, singer, 56, GEC Marine VSEL Burrow Mityrard Barrow-in-Furness Cumbria. The Prince of Wales, President, the France's Trast-taunches the trust s Millennium Awards at the Limelight Clob, London WI. The Princess Royal, President, the Princess Royal Time for Caren, visits Holyhead Care Chitach, he foroclambid Mideband and

Anniversaries

Births: Sir William Beechey, painter, rawa irus for Carer, visis Hobbead Car-ers Ontreach, Kingsland, Hobbead, An-desey, and as President, Ce Pinoess Reyal Trust for Carer, Lumches the Carers Support Intuitive with Samaritans, Gwinedd Carer, Centre, Bingor, 1753; Gustave Flaubert, nevelist, 1821: Edvard Munch, ruinter, 1863: Edward G. Robinson (Emanue) Goldenburg), actor, 1893; John James Osborne, playwright and actor, 1929. Deaths: Robert Browning, poet, 1889; Douglas Fairbanks Sur Douglas Elton Ulman), actor, 1939; Tallulah Brockman Bankhead, actress, 1958. On this day: Spain declared war on Britain, 1804; King George V held a great Coronation

Durbar in Delhi, India, 1911: China declared war on Japan, 1936; Christopher Cockerell patented the first howeveraft, 1955; the first London production of West Side Story was pendent, 1963, and became a republic 1964: women members were elected to the Jockey Club for the first time. 1977. Today is the Feast Day of St Corentin or Cury. St Edburga of Minster, Saints Epimachus and Alexander. St Finnian of Clonard, St Jane Frances de Chantel and St Vicelin.

Lectures Victoria and Albert Museum

Amelia Fearn, "Domestic Silver of the First Half of the 18th Century'

Royal Over-Seas

Mr Martyn Goff, administrator for the Booker Prize, gave a lecture at Rhodes House yesterday evening on behalf of the Royal Over-Seas League for its Oxford members on the subject of the Booker Prize.

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 3,36nm. United Synagogues: 0881-343 8989. Federation of Synagogues: 0881-207 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive

Synagogue services

classification. Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portugues Spanish and Portuguese Jews Con-tion: 0171-289 2573, New London been classified as a category A vice Service. Prior to the review

LAW REPORT: 12 DECEMBER 1997

Prisoner is entitled only to gist of review material

categorisation was due for review was entitled only to be informed of the gist of the material to be put before the review body, and not to be given the material in its entirety.

R v Secretary of State for the Home Department ex parte McAsox, Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hobbouse and Lord justice Mantell) 3 December 1997

The Court of Appeal dismissed the appellant's appeal against the dismissal his application for judicial review of the decision of the Home Secretary not to make available to a prisoner all the material which was to go before a review body considering his security

The appellant had been

prisoner. He had remained in he had been give the gist of the a prisoner of being placed in that category ever since. Edward Fitzecrald OC and Philippa Kaufmann (Prisoners' Advice Service) for the appellant; Kenneth Parket QC and Dinah Rose (Treasury Solicitor)

for the Home Secretary.

Lord Woolf MR said that the classification of category A prisoners was reviewed annually, and was normally conducted by a review team, who referred to a review committee only those cases in which there was an overall recommendation to downgrade classification, or cases which had not been before the committee for five years.

The review of the appellant's classification in 1995 had not come within the normal cri- available to the prisoner. If that teria for recommendation to the committee, but had been referred as an exceptional case because of representations convicted of a very serious made on his behalf with the asarmed robbery in 1984, and had sistance of the Prisoners' Ad-

material which had been prepared for it by the reporting officers at the prison. it was the appellant's con-

before the review body prior to his making representations, or at least with the names of those who had provided the information to the review body. It had been submitted on his behalf that in the light of the authorities there was no justification for the Home Secretary not to adopt a more open stance. It was the current practice when considering applications for parole to make the material on which the Parole Board acted could be done with regard to ty categorisation did not have parole applications it could equally be done with regard to

the categorisation process. was desirable, when deciding a administrative body, and the matter which had the impact on other was independent.

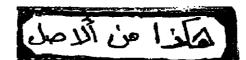
category A, that the approach should be to ensure as far as was practicable that fairness should be achieved. However. tention that a prisoner should be the decision whether in any supplied with all the material put particular situation the procedure adopted was fair or unfair had to be made not only in the light of the prisoner's situation. but also in the light of the practical considerations which must apply in the proper running of

There was a distinction in the nature of the process of the Parole Board and the security categorisation review body. The result of a favourable decision by the Parole Board was that the prisoner was released, but a change in securithat effect. The body which reviewed categorisation and the Parole Board were different: The court accepted that it one was a purely internal

a prison.

In the end the court had to decide whether the process adopted on review of categorisation was fair with regard to the nature of the exercise carried out. In R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex p Doody [1994] 1 AC 531 the House of Lords had endursed the provision of the gist of the material relied on, rather the actual material, where a prisoner serving a mandatory life sentence was to make representations about the period to be served for retribution and deterrence. The procedure being followed under the present policy with regard to categorisation reviews was perfectly satisfactory, particularly because the Home Secretary was prepared to consider in the circumstances of any particular case whether additional information should be made available. The appeal would be dismissed.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



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This week, the Labour Government changed. The private grief, arguments and soul-searching among ministers and loyalist MPs were more important in that change than the resignations and public rebellion. They add up to a party in power that has hardened its face and lost its youthful, bouncy optimism.

The change, New Labour's unpleasant. painful rite of passage, was deliberately inflicted by the Prime Minister. There are a hundred ways in which Tony Blair, Gordon Brown and Harriet Harman could have avoided cutting the future income of some of the poorest families in the country. They know that politics, and not simply socialism, is the language of priorities. We now know that paying single mothers not to work, but to stay at home with their children, is not a New Labour priority.

Mr Blair argues that it is far, far better to push people into jobs. We agree. He points out that his party had been elected on the basis of sticking to Tory spending limits for a couple of years. Again, quite

right: to breach those would have been to break faith with voters. This is particularly important at a time when many middleclass people who cautiously voted New Labour for the first time are totting up the various perk-removals and indirect new imposts agreed by Mr Blair, and asking themselves how they differ from old-fashioned tax increases. But it does not then follow that these

cuts at this time were the only option. Far from it; they were chosen. And if they hurt. they were meant to hurt, for two reasons. The first is ideology. Despite the refusal by ministers to respond directly to questions about whether they intend to drive people into work, the developing ideology of New Labour, like that of the New Democrats in the United States, is clear on the underlying issues. The party leadership believes that unchecked welfare and a dependency culture pose a moral threat to the nation. This is rarely stated openly except by Frank Field, And it isn't the case that the Prime Minister is identical to any

New Rightist on the matter: Mr Blair will do more to find jobs for people than his predecessors did. He is energetically convincing on the subject. But in his belief in the moral danger of dependency, he is a true heir of Margaret Thatcher. He wants people to work, above all. Work is the bedrock of New Labour thinking, even when it takes a few whips and scorpions to drive welfare-recipients towards it. Mr Blair is not a Tory. But he is not a liberal.

The second reason behind the cut is political strategy. The New Labour leadership sees no threat whatever from the left. Why? Because the kind of people who are conscience-stricken about last night's decision have nowhere else to go. A handful of individual MPs can resign, and rather more than a handful can rebel. But in the end, for them and their supporters in the country, there is no credible alternative force. The Liberal Democrats are the obvious challengers, but they are too geographically concentrated, and too close to Labour on other issues. The Conservatives are flopping about, dazed by Blairism, unsure which way to jump.

While all of that remains true, Blair's political priority is surely to dig ever deeper into traditional Tory territory, appropriating the rhetoric of pro-family, antiwelfare politics, reassuring the hard-workers at the expense of the shirkers. His base can be almost infinitely expanded - can't it?

We would say, watch it. The laws of political physics mean that, if the country was served a consistent diet of illiberal centrism. opposition would harden and grow. It would come not from some new force, but from the Liberal Democrats and from inside the Labour family itself. Look at what they feel already about cuts for the disabled. Labour is keen, loyal, and still power-hungry. But it is not infinitely flexible.

So look at the faces behind you, Mr Blair, and ponder their expressions: not this week's rebels, but the ones who didn't rebel, who are swallowing bard and are sick at

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MAN ...

JUS' KIDDIN

Gordon:
we been the heart. They are your people. They are not aliens or lunatics, but decent, mainstream politicians upon whose loyalty and good sense you will depend. This affair has touched their idea of themselves and their purpose in power. Much more of what happened last week will produce the conditions for a debilitating internal challenge. Imagine it: a cluster of politicians who pronounce themselves not New or Old Labour, but Free Labour, or some such tag.

Given our current electoral system, and the strong central discipline now exercised by Labour, we do not think "Free Labour" would thrive at the polls, or at party conference. Nor would the rebels pose the kind of day-to-day threat to the Government that John Major experienced from his Euro-rebels. But the emergence of a consistent and semi-organised opposition to Blair would be debilitating. It would wear down the party, produce a ready source of broadcast criticism, blur the Government's messages and erode its selfassurance. You don't need that, Mr Blair.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fix 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Blair's 'betrayal'

Sir: God bless your "long-standing Labour backbencher" for his tears ("New Labour is heartbroken , 11 December) but God damn him for not obeying his conscience. God bless the Scottish Office minister as he retreats to the backbenches for his courageous rebellion over benefits for lone parents.

After years of waiting for the Conservatives to go away, we now have a Labour government but we still have a Tory Prime Minister. Those of us who felt so deeply for Neil Kinnock on the night of his defeat in 1992 and loved him for his speech about sorrow for the poor and under-privileged, will hate Blair for - I can find no other words his treachery.

He has betrayed all of us who believe that government's first responsibility is to those who cannot make their way unaided in a modern world which increasingly makes demands which many cannot meet. This is what we voted for.

I am 73. In 1940, I put aside my Rupert Brooke poems and vent to sea in the Merchant Navy murmuring, "Now. God be thanked Who has matched us with this His hour". We fought a just war, and won.

The latest "just war" also seemed to have been won. Now, dreams that I might be allowed to see, for my grandchildren, the dawn of a new age of reason and moral sensibility have been dashed. DAVID SIMPSON

Sir: The assumption made by the Government seems to be that to motivate single parents to go back to work. you have to make it impossible for them to live unless they do so, and take away their choice of what is best

Barry, South Glamorgan

for their young children. If we believe in supporting and empowering people, we should continue benefit. If the offers of work are good enough and the child care is suitable, many women will take up the offer. That would give single parents the same sorts of choices as the better off. Otherwise, they remain "socially excluded". VALERIE FAWCETT Abingdon, Oxfordshire

Sir: There is no plan to force lone parents to work, let alone to work a nine-to-six day. Most women with young children prefer to work part-time, and

for the low-paid this is recognised in the Family Credit scheme.

When the Beveridge scheme came in after the war, we all cheered because lone parents were able to stay at home on income support (then called national assistance) just like most other mothers then did. But most mothers, it has turned out, did not - and do not - want to stay at home all day; they fought for the opportunity to work while they had children.

That battle is over. It is now the mothers who are trapped on income support who need to be helped to escape from what can become a lifetime of "social exclusion" through impoverishment. PHYLLIS WILLMOTT London N6

Sir: Poverty is one of the contributing factors to childhood behavioural disorders and their progression to later delinquency. One of New Labour's key policy areas is to be "tough

on the causes of crime".

hild Psychiatry at Nottingham University, argued at his inaugural address that if the previous overnment had been serious in its wish to do something about such childhood problems it would start by doubling child benefits. From my experience working in the NHS child psychiatry services I would agree.

Every £1 spent on helping childhood behavioural problems has been estimated to save £75 to £100 in later costs to society.

ALEXANDER B SETON-BROWNE Consultant Child Psychiatrist Cacrleon, Gwent

Sir: We welcome the Government's commitment to reduce poverty and tackle social and economic exclusion. Regrettably, we note the new Social Exclusion Unit does not include a permanent member who has

direct experience of poverty. Those living in poverty are

the true experts on social ex-John Pearce, Professor of clusion. They face barriers to employment, decent wages, basic health care and suitable housing. It is they who will be most affected by the recommendations of this task force.

We believe there must be a broader consultation between the socially excluded and decision-makers. Substantive dialogue, and a commitment by the Government to a national poverty eradication plan, will be more likely to yield solutions to

> clusion. EVAN METZ Co-ordinator UK Coalition Against Poverty London SE5

the problems of poverty and ex-

ROH budgets

Sir: The allegation that the board of the Royal Opera House never received financial information which enabled it to assess its trading position or take action on it is totally untrue (Andreas Whittam Smith,

financial forecasts were "left on the shelf while planning proceeded willy-nilly without reference to them".

During my chairmanship (and that of my predecessor) the hoard received monthly financial statements which showed up-to-date projections of the profit and loss account, with movements indicated month by month and for the full year. Adverse changes against budget were accompanied by management recommendations for action to correct or reverse such trends. These included wage restraint, cuts in overheads and, during 1996, redundancies. Production schedules were examined and if necessary adjusted; box office results and cash flow were also reviewed. All these matters received the board's

close attention. Whatever our faults of omission or commission, the serious charge that we had no proper financial information to guide us is not only a false reflection

9 December). It is also false that on the board, but a slur on the able and hard-working staff who provided it. Sir ANGUS STIRLING

> London W11 The writer was chairman of the Royal Opera House, 1991-

Doctors' morality

Sir: Phil Hammond throws up his hands in horror at the fact that medical students and doctors are susceptible to lustful thoughts and immoral actions ("Sore throat? Kindly remove your blouse and bra", 9 December). Let us not imagine that he has discovered something new. Down the years patients have often found themselves in a vulnerable position, and, sadly, members of the medical profession have

sometimes taken advantage. To its shame, the British Medical Association earlier this year gave its blessing to a revised version of the Hippocratic Oath, from which the promise to abstain from the seduction of patients has been removed. But human nature has not changed. This stricture is as necessary as ever it was. **HUGH J THOMSON** Consultant Surgeon

PRIESTLEY

Birmingham

Sir: I am told by medical acquaintances that contrary to Dr Phil Hammond's point of view, the problem in Britain is that women's breasts are very rarely examined by doctors of either sex, and that as a result our breast cancer fatality rate is among the highest in the de-

veloped world. I am sure that my friends and relatives who have endured breast cancer and its treatment would have opted for frequent examinations by horny young doctors for the chance of carlier detection of their illness, particularly the one who is now walking around with one breast and no hair. BRENDA BEARY

Kyoto: just a start

Sir. We need a 60 per cent cut in carbon-dioxide emissions just to stop the levels in the atmosphere rising. If a fug builds up in the pub on Saturday night we can open a window to let it out, but with CO2 we have to rely on reduced discharges and the long-term uptake of the gas by plants and the oceans to restore the natural balance.

The compromise target for emission cuts agreed at Kyoto represents a regrettably sluggish start to the long haul back to

TONY ROBSON Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Sir. Gavin Green (Motoring, 6 December) says people would be "amazed how clean a modern car's exhaust is". Many catalystequipped car drivers believe their fumes to be innocuous, but catalytic converters can never clean up all the by-products of internal combustion, principally the unburnt fuel and nitrogen oxides which interact to form ozone and smog.

Catalysts increase fuel consumption and do nothing positive at all on many typical short journeys. Drivers should recognise that the only effective way they can contribute to improving urban air quality is to leave the car at home. IAN GARMAN Cardiff

Brief encounters

Sir: One of your "Dilemmas" respondents (11 December) states that he is in his late twenties and is in a stable relationship with a man 10 years his senior who has had two lengthy marriages. If this man is in his late thirties and first got married at 18, this makes 10 years a lengthy marriage. What is a short marriage these days? MARTIN RUSSELL Newcastle upon Tyne

Unfair test

Atting warme Sir: Hanging a kilogram weight on the end of an erect penis to_ ascertain the "virility" of the subject is patently inaccurate (Column One, 5 December). The force exerted depends on the weight multiplied by distance, so that the man blessed with 20cm has to bear twice the load of his less fortunate counterpart with only 10cm. J E SEVEN

Halesowen, West Midlands

Statistically speaking, what is the probability that you will read this column?



MILES KINGTON

A lot of nonsense has been talked about this ban on beef business. Most of it has come from the Government, of course, but a lot has also come from commentators trying to tell us just how unlikely it is that we can get CJD from beef. There is more chance, they tell us, of choking to death on food, or being run over by a member of the Royal Family ...

This careless throwing around of statistics is quite irresponsible, as we do not have any generally accepted standard of comparison. Oh. yes, we know vaguely that more people were killed on the roads of Britain during the Falklands War than were killed in the War and we know that it's safer to fly than to drive (come to think of it, we know that anything is safer than driving. so it's a miracle that the new Labour government hasn't banned cars yet) but we don't know what the exact figures are for

We don't know whether there is more

chance of England winning the World Cup or the Pope being Jewish. So today I am printing a league table

of probability. Cut it out.

Pin it on the wall. And next time you say, "Look, there's less chance of that happening than there is of ...", just glance at it and carry on.

Here we go then. There is a 1 in 2 chance that every govemment will appoint a man who insists on using the title Dr. as in Dr Brian Mawhinnev or Dr Jack Cunningham, even though they are clearly not proper doctors and nobody has the faintest idea what kind of doc-

tors they are. There is a 1 in 3 chance that, the way the Labour government is progressing, we will have petrol rationing by next year, and the return of the black market in such vital commodities as beef, etc.

There is a 1 in 4 chance that you will

be involved in a traffic accident before you

There is a 1 in 5 chance that it will rain in Britain today.

There is a I in 10 chance that the weather forecast will tell us where.

There is a 1 in 15 chance that you will be so affected by the sight of a traffic accident that your driving improves marked-

ly, for a while, There is a 1 in 20 chance that your train will arrive late.

There is a 1 in 100 chance that you will

be glad it arrived late, as you had nothing in particular to do for a while. There is a 1 in 200 chance that your train

will arrive early.

There is a 1 in 400 chance that you will be so affected by seeing a had traffic accident that you start driving much more slowly, and that this causes a bad traffic accident.

There is a 1 in 500 chance that you will

actually hear real people singing carols in the street at Christmas time.

There is a I in 1,000 chance that all the Christmas cards you send will arrive at their destination before Christmas.

There is a 1 in 1,500 chance that you will be able to identify the senders of all the Christmas cards you get.

There is a 1 in 5.000 chance that you will get what you want for Christmas.

There is a 1 in 10,000 chance that you will get any of the ailments which everyone from Edwina Currie onwards has predicted for you.

There is a 1 in 50,000 chance that someone will give you an Edwina Currie novel for Christmas,

There is a 1 in 500,000 chance that you will be run over in a traffic accident by a car driven by Lord Lucan.

There is a 1 in 1,000,000 chance that you will be run over by a car driven by Ronnie Biggs back on an incognito trip to Britain.

There is a 1 in 4 million chance that you will be so affected by listeria that you dizzily walk out into the road and are run over by a van taking remaindered Edwina Currie novels back to the wholesalers, driven by Ronnie Biggs.

There is a 1 in 10 million chance that someone somewhere will suddenly exclaim: "Thank you, thank you, Jack Cunningham! If it hadn't been for your wise and swift actions. I'd probably be dead by

There is a 1 in 50 million chance that you will catch a disease from the cover of an Edwina Currie novel which causes you to swerve while driving near Holyhead, thus causing a crash in which a large lorry overturns and sheds its load of frozen Irish beefburgers on a car coming the other way, crushing the passenger who is socalled Doctor Jack Cunningham who was on his way to Holyhead on a fact-find-

حكتاب الاجل

19/COMMENT

Tony, Gordon: you should have been there to see it



DONALD **MACINTYRE** LABOUR'S LOST INNOCENCE

Amazingly, the House of Commons still matters. This exasperating, clubby, antediluvian, ludicrously nocturnal institution, is not, as it had appeared to be since 1 May, running on empty. Which comes as a surprise to all of us - including, perhaps, the Cabinet. From Tony Blair and Gordon Brown

down, the entire Cabinet showed a sort of magnificent disdain for Wednesday night's debate on lone parents by staying away from it. Instead they ungaliantly left the task of lending moral support to the embattled Harriet Harman to a neatly assembled collection of wannabes just below Cabinet rank: Steven Byers, Alan Milburn, Peter Mandelson, Tessa Jowell. Perhaps the tradition of a Prime Minister or a Chancellor of the Exchequer demonstrating their support for a minister arguing for an unpopular policy in which they have had a direct hand is an obsolete and theatrical convention. More probably it isn't. As a result of defying it, the Government's big beasts missed something real and palpable which was happening in the Commons Chamber.

Partly, yes, what they missed was the first painful confrontation of the parliamentary Labour Party with the economic and social realities of the programme which made them MPs in such large numbers on 1 May. In this sense the loss of virginity was not so much the Government's as the party's. Blair himself has never doubted for a moment the necessary pain that welfare reform would inof the newest of New Labour MPs, it came lone mothers into work, as a deep shock to be the ones so obviously inflicting it. This was, in other words, a con- . left are already busily drawing precisely the frontation between a ruthlessly modernising

Government and those who do not get it. day night is to say that the party was always going to show its cracks and that it might as well be now. The organised Campaign Group left were bound to rebel at some point. The very fact that they did so on Wednesday night can be regarded as little more than a testimony to Blair's seriousness of purpose. Some who voted against the Government on Wednesday night, were, in every sense, old Labour MPs. The majority were men and women who still wish the Labour Party was

its unelectable 1980s self. They may be even more dispensable than they look. First there is the size of Blair's and more often about what he is trying to impregnable majority, which could absorb any imaginable revolt. Second, the threat of removal of the whip, even if not carried out this time, is a potent one, since it carries deselection in its wake. And third, who knows? If electoral reform happens they may be driven off into a separate socialist party anyway.

But this group was by no means the only problem on Wednesday night. Quite a few of those who abstained, and a much larger group who voted for the Government with self-confessedly heavy hearts, included many who regard themselves as loyal Blairites. They arrived at their decision for quite different reasons. More than 100 Labour MPs signed the letter to Gordon Brown urging a delay in the lone parents benefit cuts, including five other select committee chairmen beside Chris Mullin, its main author. Mullin himself may have a background on the Labour left, but he enthusiastically endorsed Blair's candidacy for the leadership, strongly backs the welfare to work strategy, is hawkish on law and order, and has long since ceased to fight yesterday's battles. Those MPs, and the numerous agonising ministers who could be found on Wednesday night wishing they were elsewhere, shared a deep unease which is not conveniently dismissable as old Labour, and which concerned the specifics of the lone parents proposal, rather than the broad strategy of luring people off benefit and into work.

First, of course (unlike university tuition fees) this was a welfare reform whose impact was almost wholly on the poor. But there were also genuine doubts about the intellectual coherence of the measure. One was that the benefit cut might act as a positive disincentive to some existing lone parents to seek work (though not, and this was always important to Blair, to new ones), since anyone taking a short term or seasonal job would, once it was over, go onto a reduced level of benefit as a technically new claimant.

The objections do not mean that it would have been remotely sensible to retreat at the last minute to quell the revolt. To do so would have exploded any claim the Government had to fiscal credibility. It might, however, have been possible to do so several weeks ago, before the issue came to a head. The other problem, however, was a confusion in the Government's message about what the cuts were for. On at least two occasions Ann Taylor and Harriet Harman almost apologetically said the Government did not want to make the cuts but had no other choice because of Kenneth Clarke's tight budget limits. It was only last weekend that Blair's true message started to come through: this was an integral part of the larger Blair/Brown plan flict. But for many in the party, including some for reducing benefit dependency and getting

What are the lessons? Several on the old wrong ones. The relative leniency with which the rebels are being treated may be a par-That is not, however, quite the whole story. tial acknowledgement of the messiness of the But it does not mean that Blair has any intention of being deterred from reducing the bloated welfare budget. Everything will be scrutinised, from disability benefit for people who don't need it, to the barriers that independent taxation of women may be putting in the way of redistributive measures like the taxation of child benefit.

There is no doubt that Blair used up on Wednesday night some of his ample store of political capital. It can be replenished pretty fast. But welfare reform won't be achieved by stealth. He needs to speak more loudly do; to become more of, in Tony Benn's memorable phrase about Margaret Thatcher, a teacher-politician. Oh - and next time Harriet Harman has a hard choice to force through Parliament, Messrs Blair and Brown should consider sitting on the bench beside her..



The band your parents won't understand: Prodigy's Keith Flint (right) with Maxim, in concert this week Photograph: News Team

I'm not shocked by smacking up, just bored by boorish misogyny



SUZANNE **MOORE** ON THE **PRODIGY**

The Prodigy are very naughty boys indeed. They have succeeded in not only getting their latest video banned -- but have even got Diane bbott and her colleagues to table an early day motion in the Commons seeking to ban the

posters for their single "Smack My Bitch Up". "Smack My Bitch Up" has been around for nearly six months, because it is on their phenomenally successful Fat of the Land album. By releasing it as a single, another mini-

controversy has been ignited. Do these words incite violence against women? Are they even meant to? Well, according to the group, they are not even about women, but refer to an intense experience. This. even in the irony-laden Nineties, is somewhat disingenuous. If the lyrics are meaningless, then they might as well have been "saw your head" off". No one seems to quite

know what to do about all this. Anyone who says they don't actually want to see posters saying Smack My Bitch Up is an uptight moralist who fails to get the hippest jokes this latest Prodigy wind-up seriously.

I have to say I don't particularly want to see these posters, and I wish that the group could have found other ways to shock that were not so inherently lazy. The confusion over how to react to all this shows that on the whole we would rather accept a certain level of misogyny than be labelled old-fashioned.

The Prodigy manage, then, to have it both ways. They can be outrageous, while at the same time denying that what they are up to actually means though you can see it on MTV anything. They pull the same trick off in their video, which is snot from the point of view of someone on a night out. It is packed with images of drugs. drink, vomit and big breasted strippers. Full of the selfloathing and excesses of the night out in Gary Oldman's film Nil By Mouth, we end up realising that what seems like a gross male fantasy has actually been experienced by a

> Makes you think doesn't it? Not really, because the whole point is to make you feel, to make you identify with this long trawl for instant gratification. As Suzic Orbach commented after seeing the video, on Will Self's chat show Something of the Night, it is all about sensation. She found that disturbing sensation is what the music of The Prodigy is all about. That

is why they are a far more interesting and musically significant band than Oasis. As Oasis have degenerated

into Dadrock they look more and more daft. Their "come or even, someone who takes and have a go if you think you are hard enough" stance has been totally blown since they stormed off stage because a plastic bottle was thrown at the knee of the guitarist. This is hardly the stuff of rock 'n' roll legend. The Prodigy meanwhile will do nicely as a band your parents won't understand. The music critics rave over their amphetamine intensity, while at the same time celebrating their glorious pantomime of twisted masculinity. Never mind the lyrics, just feel the beat in which "the dodgy politics [are] flambéed to a crisp". Anyway they are really

> beaters. The ultra-sophisticated have always been able to excuse the misogyny of many music lyrics. From the "hos" and "bitches" of gansta rap to the vile cliches of much rock, what we are hearing, we are told, is a pose, a parody of masculinity, a warped fantasy of power from men whose own sense of themselves is in crisis. To which one can only reply, it's not funny, it's not elever and it's not

cuddly chaps, not violent wife

even particularly new. There is also, of course. downright prejudice against certain types of music. While it was "classic rock" when Hendrix used to sing about shooting his "old lady", contemporary rappers, we feel, are something far more sinister. To reduce all this to a question of censorship - should this song be banned? - not only misses the point, but increases interest and sales.

Nor do I think it is possible for a mere poster to incite violence. What we have to ask ourselves is a far more complicated question. What level of misogyny is acceptable in the public domain? For while most of us won't care what The Prodigy do at their concerts, we do not want to be confronted with a "Smack My Bitch Up" poster at the bus stop.

The laddification of popular culture which has prevailed for the past five years means that many of our children have grown up in an environment in which it is perfectly normal to see pictures of naked women everywhere, to hear lewd comments about them, to laugh at the more tedious escapades of Chris Evans and generally men behaving hadly.

Laddishness was always more than just a reaction against political correctness, which was always misunderstood, but a flight into a regressive and infantile version of sexual difference at precisely the time when these roles were being challenged.

The elevation of hedonism, the beer and birds, and football and raves, that much laddishness invoked, obscured the reality that in fact an innately reactionary lifestyle was being

propagated. It is not surprising, then, that The Prodigy, who brilliantly provide a soundtrack for such hedonism, declare themselves anarchists, but end up resorting to tiredout shock tactics in order to shake things up. There is nothing radical or ground-breaking about flirting with notions of violence against women. Just listen to some blues to hear how it's done in all its gory details.

in many ways the reign of the lad appears to be coming to its own inevitable deadend. There is no way of moving on; the boorishness has become just boring. Even confused young men realise that they are more complex creatures than such a culture allows.

While Keith and Maxim. Leeroy and Liam strut their stuff chanting "smack my bitch up" until the phrase is just a jumble of syllables devoid of meaning, they may well feel the rush of freedom that the best music creates. But they still have to come down, go home and live in a world where women will not accept being called bitches, or being smacked up, or being told that these boys don't really mean what they say.

If The Prodigy really wanted to shock us they could try saying what they really mean. But that, of course, would be

INNOVATING . . COMPUTING . . PRINTING . . FAXING . . . COPYING

Getting warmer, but still a long way from our goal



NICHOLAS SCHOON THE KYOTO CLIMATE TALKS

One of the greatest journalistic satisfactions is to find out you are right after making predictions in print, even when they are other people's predictions. But I have never known if I have been right in writing dozens and dozens of articles over the past nine years on the threat of global warming. Worse still, there is a chance I will not know for another dozen years, perhaps more. That is an uncomfort-

able feeling. True, the climate seems to have started changing already to humanity's intervention The the atmosphere. But we cannot be sure. Furthermore. the credible forecasters in this business (the climate scientists. as opposed to the greens or

their opponents) tell us that we could trap heat in the atmosprobably won't have significant. harmful change until a couple of decades or more into the next century - and that it will keep on changing after that.

But current science still allows the possibility that the changes will be minor and even benign on the whole. My nightmare is that 10 years from now no one talks or cares or negotiates about global warming. That it will be seen as a silly millennial fad, blotted out by genuine global environmental crises such as water shortages. Twenty-first century hindsight may find us having had our eyes on the wrong ball.

There was a bitterly cold snap soon after The Independent was launched in October 1986. That prompted my first story on climate change, speculating on the possibility of a new Ice Age. I had not even heard of man-made global warming, although a few hundred scientists and environmentalists scattered thinly around the world were already taking an interest. The idea of a new Ice Age was still in vogue at the time, for, in the normal, natural course of events one could come along sometime in

the next few thousand years. Soon afterwards I learns how the emissions from burning coal, gas, oil and forests ready pretty clear, months

phere, and so began writing the odd global warming story. Then, at the end of 1989, Margaret Thatcher made a speech on climate change which put the issue on the political map. In the US, they had a freakishly hot summer and a rising young senator called Al Gore took an interest. By the end of 1990 the bandwagon was really rolling. and it was during that year that governments decided they should negotiate a climate change treaty through the United Nations.

They had one agreed in time for the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 but it was a mouse of a treaty. The Framework Convention on Climate Change gave a legal definition to the problem and asked developed countries to volunteer to stabilise their rising annual emissions at the 1990 level by 2000. The majority failed to hit this target: those that succeeded did so only by accident of economic decline or of policy changes unrelated to global

Clearly another treaty was needed - one which really did stop greenhouse gas emissions rising with each passing year. accelerating the rate of climate change. That was what could and should have been negotiated in Kyoto. But it was albefore delegates from more which presidents and prime than 150 countries arrived in Japan for 10 days of intense. against-the-clock negotiating, that this was not to be. Meanwhile, the science of

climate change has become stronger and deeper over the past seven years. The supercomputer models of global climate have simulated changing temperatures and rainfall more and more convincingly. Globally, the 1990s have seen the warmest years since worldwide records began more than 100 years ago. And, though the uncertainties remain large. and will stay that way for years, an impressive scientific consensus has emerged. Climate change has begun or, to use the cautious, painstakingly negotiated words of the Science Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. "The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.

I was at the meeting in Madrid two years ago when

they came up with that phrase. and it honestly was a thrilling moment - although my excitement was admittedly intensified by being the only British journalist there. To see opinion swing

around through the 1990s has

been fascinating, and often

thrilling. This is a subject on

ministers have been phoning each other in the middle of the night over the past few days. An issue that was once the coneern of only a lew hundred people now engages millions who think that, even in spite of the uncertainties, we need to reduce the risk of catastrophe and start slowing climate change now.

Along with leading politicians, every kind of expert and lobbyist and pundit now has an angle on climate change: economists, biologists, geographers, media commentators. It has been fun to watch the doubters of the right wing think-tanks and the fossil fuel lobby shift their ground. First they said the science was baloney. Then they said the warming was so uncertain it was too early to act. Then they said that it would probably work out cheaper to do nothing about cutting emissions, and adapt to a changing elimate when it came.

Seeing the failure to take decisive action in Kyoto over the past week, however, has not been at all thrilling. The contrast between ministerial rhetoric and the hard bargaining behind closed doors is an unattractive spectacle. Years ago, in the fairly early days of global warming, I guessed that nothing which

really attacked the problem would be done until well into the next century. It was a gloomy bet, but a pretty safe one. When it comes to acting now to tackle an uncertain problem which lies years in the future, and when that action involves national interests and difficult changes, and when the problem is so global that most of the 160 very different nations have to agree on what to do,

decisiveness is hard to come by. Kyoto is not the end of the road. Within a few years another treaty or an annexe will have been negotiated, and probably condemned for not doing enough. I just hope I make it compos mentis into my seventies, around 2030, enough time to find out for sure whether our predictions were far-sighted, or misconceived.

If we prove to be right, let's hope a few of the doubters are still alive so we can tell them this. To the executives of Excon (Esso as they are known in Britain) and those of Mobil Oil, to the Australian Government, the Global Climate Coalition, the Republicans in the US Senate, the Institute of Economic Affairs in Britain. and to all you others who did your best to stop a decent, eftective treaty being negotiated in Kyoto: you self-interested,

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World markets spooked by fresh S Korean crisis

The economic crisis in South Korea deepened yesterday, after leading credit agencies slashed their ratings for South Korea debt. Stephen Vines in the Far East and Diane Coyle in London report on how growing concerns about South Korea's financial stability prompted a mass self-off throughout the world's stock markets.

The FTSE tumbled by 94.8 points yesterday to close at 5035.9 after a day's heavy share trading. At one stage in the day, the FTSE was 131 points down. The share fall, which was mirrored in stock markets worldwide, was prompted by the worsening crisis in South Korea.

Overnight, the won, the Korean currency fell by its maximum daily limit of 10 per cent to a record low against the dollar in just a few minutes. And concerns that the Korean authorities are failing to tackle the crisis were underlined yesterday by news that two leading credit agencies, Moody's and Standard & Poor's (S&P), had sharply downgraded the country's credit ratings.

The latest wave of stock market selling was prompted by fears that the International Monetary Fund's \$57bn (£35bn) rescue package will be insufficient to meet the country's short-term debt obligations. Korea's short-term overseas debts are now estimated at \$100bn. Although some of this reflects lending between branches of Korean banks and companies, some \$40bn is thought to need

refinancing before the end of

Standard & Poor's has put Korea on a BBB-minus rating, one rank above junk bond status. Spokesman John Chambers said it had placed the country on a negative credit watch, and would decide within the next few weeks whether to announce a further ratings downgrade.

Standard & Poor's followed an overnight decision by rival agency Moody's Investors Service, which lowered its rating on South Korea's foreign debt and also downgraded the ratings of 31 Korean companies.

Officials acknowledge that the IMF's package will only succeed if South Korea undertakes financial and economic reforms. To this end. a special session of congress is due to agree later this month to give the central bank more independence, improve financial supervision, and legislate for commercial companies to produce properly audited consolidated accounts.

But commentors believe that Korea needs to do much more to tackle its long term problems. Much of Korea's foreign debt is owed by the big industrial conglomerates, whose average debt to equity ratio is above 300 per cent. As a result, a sharp economic slowdown, expected by many experts next year, will push many companies into bankruptcy. According to investment bank JP Morgan, 15,000 companies have already filed

for bankruptcy in 1997. Even though this was the first day in which foreign buyers were permitted to purchase up to 50 per cent of listed companies shares, overseas buyers were keeping well away. One broker described the decision to open the market further to foreigners,

a few days ahead of schedule, as another Korean joke".

Even if he does not win, a pressure on the new executive to adopt a more aggressive stance in Korea's already

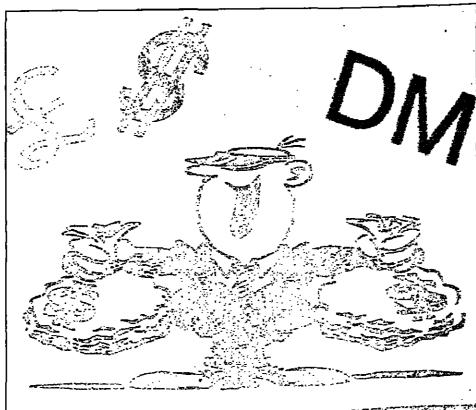
The news from Korea was sufficient to trigger an outbreak of jitters across the region. Malaysia, where the stock market dived by some 7 per cent, was worst-affected, as the government warned of bank closures. In Hong Kong blue chip share prices slid back by almost 5.5 per cent as interest rates started to rise again and there was renewed talk of pressure on the Hong Kong dollar.

Ironically the stock market most affected by the Korea crisis, the Japanese market, responded the least negatively. The key Nikkei 225 index shed just 2.5 per cent of its value, and this was mainly related to Japanese domestic considerations.

Whilst his country's economic crisis was deepening by the minute, President Kim Young-sam addressed the nation on television. Looking sombre. he said: "I cannot find the right words to apologise". This is not his first attempt to take the blame for Korea's financial chaos. He also apologised for the national humiliation of having to accept the IMF's rescue package.

The crisis of confidence in the Korean economy was not helped by uncertainties surrounding next Thursday's presidential election. The leading opposition candidate Kim Dae-jung has promised that he will renegotiate the deal with the IMF if he wins. Mr Kim is a veteran campaigner who could pull off victory in the volatile atmosphere now prevailing in Korea.

high vote for Mr Kim will put fraught dealings with the IMF.





A South Korean man is dwarfed by a huge biliboard hanging from the Korea Exchange Bank building advising customers to help the nation's economy by opening foreign Outlook, page 21 currency accounts in Seoul.

South Korea's battered banking system got more bad news yesterday after Moody's investors' Service downgraded the country's foreign currency ceilings for bonds, notes and

Photograph: Paul Barker/Reuter takeover of several US utilities

PowerGen eyes £3.5bn strike for Cinergy of the US

PowerGen is contemplating a £3.5bn strike for the American electricity utility Cinergy in a deal which would give it a 50 per cent stake in Midlands Electricity, the UK regional power company. Michael Harrison reports.

Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chairman, is understood to be ready to make his move as soon as the Government gives the power generators the green light to expand into electricity distribution

and supply.

The Department of Trade and Industry is expected to in-. dicate whether it will sanction further vertical integration in the sector when it gives its rul-ing on PacifiCorp's £3.7bn bid for Energy group, owner of Eastern Electricity, early in the New Year.

PowerGen is understood to have examined buying out one of the 50 per cent stakes held in Midlands by Cinergy and GPU, who joined together as Avon Energy Partners to acquire Midlands for £1.73bn in May last year.

The US takeover followed the previous government's decision to block a bid for Midlands by PowerGen and National Power's agreed takeover of Southern Electric.

Now, PowerGen is believed to have concluded that its strategy would be best served by acquiring one of the two US parent companies. This would give it exposure to both the American power market and the UK electricity supply industry as the domestic market is opened to full competition from next April.

but there are complications with a number of them since they own nuclear generating capacity which it is not interested in. Cinergy, however, is a pure

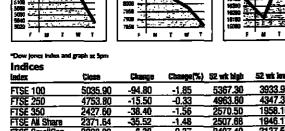
fossil-fuel generator. It owns an operates 11,000 megawatts of coal and gas fired generating plant in the mid-West. Headquartered in Cincinnati, it serves 1.3 million electricity customers and 434,000 gas consumers in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky and has a market capitalisation of \$5.4bn. It has 8,000 employees and made a net income of \$340m on revenues of \$3.2bn last year.

Cinergy is one of seven or eight US utilities examined by PowerGen and although a final decision has not yet been taken, it is thought to be the group's favoured takeover tar-

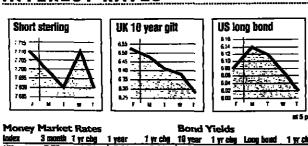
Mr Wallis refused to cour ment on PowerGen's intentions but it is well known that he would like to acquire an interest in a UK regional electricity company.

PowerGen executives vehemently deny suggestions, however, that it has offered the Government a deal to stop coal closures in return for the green light to own a Rec. The Prime Minister Tony Blair announced on Tuesday that the three main generators had agreed a deal with RJB Mining to avert the threat of pit closures and redundancies for the next six months.

The deal has yet to b thrashed out in detail but is likely to involve the three generators taking an extra 7-8 million tonnes of coal on top of contracts so far signed, either to burn or stockpile. So far National Power and Eastern have agreed to take 12 million tonnes from RJB next financial year while PowerGen has contract-PowerGen has examined the ed to buy 4.5 million tonnes :- . 41 from other UK coal producers.



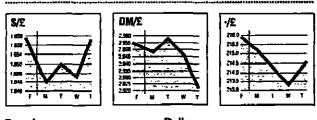
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Chay (yr)	% Chipe	Falls	Price (p)	Chy (y)	% Cliga
Racal Electronic	234.50	14.00	6.35	HSBC Holdings	1450.00	-96.00	-6.21
Smitth (David S.)	206.00	9.50	4.83	RJB Mining PLC	170.00	-10.00	-5.56
Daily Mail TST A	1875.00	67.50	3.73	Ralltrack GRP	943.00	-53.00	-5.32
Galiaher Group	345.50	10.50	3.13	HSBC Holdings	1536.00	-84.00	-5.19

CURRENCIES



Lonua				Dollar			
	at Spill	Change	Yr Age		ni Sper	Charge	Yr Ago
Dollar	1 6573	+0.72c	1.6565	Sterling	0.6034	-0.26p	0.6037
D-Mark	2.9224	-2.13pt	2.5421	D-Mark	1.7634	-2.0601	1.5371
Yen	214.57	+¥1.96	187.39	Yen	129.47	+¥0.62	113.40
2 index	103.90	· 9.20	92.90	\$ index	108.20	-0.50	97.80

OTHER INDICATORS

4 at 5 nm	Dest	Clig	Yr Age		tedex	Che	Yr ago	العدا أود
Brent Oil (S)	16.81	-0.07	22.08	GDP	113.90	3.80	109.7	Jan
Gold (S)	284.05	-1.10	368.85	RPI	159.60	3.7	153.91	Nov
Sever (S)	6.05	0.21	4.86	Base F		7.25	6.00	
www.bloomberg.com source: Bloomberg					berg			

Lucas Varity yesterday announced the sale of its VarityPerkins diesel engine subsidiary to Caterpillar, the US engine maker for \$1.3bn. Peter Thal Larsen finds that the deal will give the automotive and aerospace engineer

> Although the offer from Caterpillar had been unsolicited, the \$1.32bn (£803m) price tag made it impossible for Lucas Varity to refuse. The price beat our own internal valuation of the division, so it was right to sell it," said chief operating officer Tony

a sizeable war chest with

which to beef up its

remaining businesses.

Nevertheless, the sale contradicts the strategy mapped out for the business when Lucas and Varity announced their merger just eighteen months ago. At the time, chief executive Victor Rice claimed that VarityPerkins would benefit from sourcing Lucas's fuel injection systems. He said joint research & development initiatives between the two divisions would "result in cost savings and enable the two businesses to compete more effectively on a global scale."

At the time, Mr Rice also predicted that VarityPerkins's sales would almost double to £1.3bn by the vear 2000.

Last night, Mr Gilroy admitted that those targets were no longer attainable. "VarityPerkins' sales and margins are not as strong as expected," he said. However, he claimed that this was mainly due to the strength of sterling, which had hit VarityPerkins more heavily than the rest of the group.

Lucas Varity sells diesel engines business for \$1.3bn

Lucas Varity's third quarter results. which were also released vesterday. support that view. In the three months to September, the group's Diesel Engines division produced opcrating profits of £13m on sales of £157m - lower than in the second quarter, and roughly in line with the pro-forma figures for the third quarter of 1996.

Lucas Varity also said that more stringent environmental controls of diesel engines had prompted it to sell the business.

VarityPerkins largely produces diesel engines for off-highway vehicles like earth-moving equipment, which have historically enjoyed less stringent emissions requirements. But environmental legislation is prompting the technology used in off-

highway diesel engines to converge with the engines used in trucks and cars. "We concluded it would have been very challenging to develop a major on-highway business organically," said Mr Rice, adding that building a position through acquisitions was not economically viable.

Investors welcomed the sale, pushing up Lucas Varity shares 1.5p to 192.5p in a falling market. "VarityPerkins was always the likeliest disposal candidate. It wasn't really a surprise." said Tim Bennett, engineering analyst at investment bank Morgan Stanley Dean Witter. He added that at a multiple of 19 times forecast earnings and 1.2 times expected sales, Lucas Varity had secured a good price for the business.

Industry observers now expect Lucas Varity to use the proceeds of the sale to strengthen its aerospace and automotive businesses. After tax and

transaction costs, the group expects the disposal to bring in "in excess of £400m." That would reduce its net debt, which stood at £496m on 31 Oc 7 tober, to under £100m. But Mr Gilrov confirmed that the group would be comfortable with current levels of interest cover, suggesting that Lucas-Varity could afford a big deal.

Since the merger, it has added to its aerospace businesses while also making three bolt-on acquisitions for its braking division. Speculation that the group was lining up an acquisition was heightened when it confirmed that it would not be accelerating the share buyback program which has seen it buy in 3 per cent of its equity this year. "The last thing this company wants to do is stick with cash," one expert explained. "The logical conclusion would be that they ve got something

Racal Electronics to split in two by floating telecoms business

Racal Electronics, the engineering group led by Sir Ernest Harrison, is to split itself in two by floating its Racal

Telecoms business and selling the loss-making data communications division. The break-up marks the third time in a decade that the Racal empire has been restructured.

Michael Harrison reports.

The decision to float Racal Telecoms follows the group's failure to find a trade buyer prepared to pay a high enough price. The business is expected to be valued at anywhere between £500m and £1bn when it is listed.

However, no timetable has been set for the flotation nor has Racal decided what proportion of the business will be sold off or how the proceeds will be used.

Sir Ernest said: "We were defence electronics and the a network built around the

seeking partnerships for Racal Telecoms which might enhance the business and we received many interesting offers but did not believe any of them gave

shareholder value." The data communications business, which employs 2,500 and made a loss of £18.4m in the first half of the year, will be disposed of in the next three to six months.

The investment bank Goldman Sachs is handling the sale and has already received several expressions of interest. Racal would not be drawn on whether it would make a profit from the disposal. The data business has assets

worth £223m, of which £90m is in the form of property and finance lease receivables. But the sale will result in a goodwill write back of £112m

and further unquantified

provisions for restructuring. Together telecoms and data communications have sales of about £600m a year. Once they are separated out, the remainder of the group consisting of

what is possible,"

Racal Telecoms is a business

national rail network. It is siminstrumentation, recording and survey business with sales of ilar to Energis, which the National Grid floated earlier this £550m and annual profits of week for £846m. However, This is the third radical re-Racal executives would not be organisation of the Racal group drawn on the likely valuation of

under Sir Ernest. He demerged their business. the mobile telephone business Racal Telecom was created Vodafone in September, 1991. through the combination of The day after that, Williams Racal's existing business tele-Holdings made an unsuccesscoms division and British Rail ful hostile bid for the remain-Telecom, which it hought for der of the group. After fending £140m two years ago. In the six off Williams he then demerged months to 10 October it made the locks business Chubb in Oca profit of £16.5m on sales of tober 1992. Its value then was-£140m. Sales growth slowed to £366m. Williams subsequently 2 per cent during the period bebought Chubb earlier this year cause of reduced income from the network of National Lottery paying three times that amount Sir Ernest, 71, who joined terminals and lower railway the group the year after it was

founded in 1950, refused to be About half its business comes from contracts with the drawn on whether this latest corporate restructuring would privatised rail companies. be his swansong, saying: "This Other customers include W H company has a lot of share-Smith, Heinz, JCI, Zeneca and holder value yet to be released a range of government deand I would very much like to parlments. be around to ensure we achieve Racal blamed the escalating

losses in data communications on delays in new product telecoms operator which uses

Triplex Lloyd shares soar on takeover approach

Shares in Triplex Lloyd soared 15 per cent to 263.5p yesterday tober that it had been in talka after the engineering group revealed it was in talks which could lead to a hid being made for the company at about 280p a share.

Speculation about a possible bid for Triplex has been raging tempt to buy William Cook, the for several days. The predator for several days. The predator is rumoured to be Doncasters, offer was trumped by a many several bid backed by venture several company bid backed by venture several cases. and industrial engineer whose shares are quoted on the New

York Stock Exchange. However Ian Dillamore, Doncaster's chairman, refused to comment on the speculation. s exports have also been hurt by no present or impending an-

nouncement," he said. According to sources close to Triplex Lloyd, discussions are continuing but a deal is not im-

Triplex Lloyd has been contin-154p. However, they soon re-Outlook, page 21 around the market, forcing the £17m.

company to announce in October that it had been in talky that had subsequently ended after the had subsequently ended af

Triplex's strategy has been in offer was trumped by a many agment bid backed by venture capital group Electra Fleming quisition would give it the crue-ical mass it needed to compete in global markets. The group

the strong pound. Triplex has yet to find a permanent replacement for Lockyer. Finance director Bob Mitchell has been acting chief executive since July.

Analysts suggested that in-Speculation about a bid for vestors would be happy to ac cept an offer pitched at 280p a uing since July, when chief ex- share, but stressed that the ecutive Graham Lockyer left the company was basically sound. group over disagreements Despite the pressures of curabout strategy. The shares rency, recent interim results. promptly touched a new low of were ahead of expectations, prompting brokers to upgrade bounded as bid rumours swirled full-year profit forecasts to

حكمة من الاجل



OUTLOOK ON THE BID FOR CHRISTIE'S, THE CRISIS IN SOUTH KOREA, AND THE FLOTATION OF RACAL TELECOM

Why Christie's is better off privately owned

ularly comfortable existence as publicly quoted companies. Their earnings are cyclical and unpredictable, and their main asset - their experts - tend to be people of fragile ego and a willingness to walk at the slightest prompting. Moreover, the business has changed in a way which makes the generally quite inflexible capital resources of a publicly quoted company inappropriate to the task of selling

So it is hardly surprising that both Christie's, and to a lesser extent Sotheby's, should find themselves in play right now. Both are in truth probably much more suited to private ownership than the publicly quoted sector. Surprisingly, the most important reason for this is not the one most often cited - that tich people are prone to aspire to such businesses because of

These days, the big vendors expect to have their collections underwritten, they expect the auction house's valuation to be guaranteed when the collection is put up for sale, so that they achieve the reserve even if it is not reached. Few publicly quoted companies can justify taking such risks with their shareholders' money, and indeed Sotheby's recently lost a packet on such a transaction. Even in today's soobisticated financial markets, it would be difficult to underwrite these things on a

Obviously, the auction house in a position to guarantee the vendor is much better placed to win the business. Returns from auctioneering could thus theoretically

has admitted to on off, and now on again, talks with a mystery predator. We still don't know who it is, but it seems likely that the above is what this is all about.

Christie's has hired Merrill Lynch alongside its traditional merchant bank adviser, Hambros - presumably with the intention of holstering its defences or finding an alternative. It may be too late for that. The question is no longer about whether Christie's remains an independent, publicly quoted company. Rather it is about the price at which the company goes private. Given the bind it finds itself in, that's unlikely to be much of a

No more money for South Korea

There is probably no alternative solution to South Korea's ever-deepening crisis but to throw a large quantity of international money at it. The trouble is that the \$57bn of IMF and other credit already doled out may not be enough, as the markets were beginning to anticipate yesterday. Nor is there any certainty that this hastily arranged package will in practice buy sufficient reform in South Korea to tackle its deep rooted structural faults. Would it not have been better in the long run to have allowed Korea to go to the

A number of conditions have been at-

is not much evidence of South Korea taking real responsibility for its economic ills. Nor, given the haste with which this package was agreed, can the IMF have any more than a superficial understanding of the nature and scale of South Korea's difficulties. No real banker would lend on such terms, and there must be more than a chance the IMF will end up regretting

There is scarcely any point in the IMF and other lenders stumping up the emergency loan unless it leads to root and branch reform. All it achieves is a bail-out of the banks and other financial institutions that have lent to South Korea.

The Mexican crisis that exploded at the end of 1994 offers a good parallel. It took two months for the terms of its international rescue package to be agreed. But that stand-by loan of \$50bn, settled in early February 1995, did not stabilise the peso. It went on to lose another third of its value on the foreign exchanges.

The currency only stopped falling once the Mexican Government admitted its mistakes, set in place new budget and privatisation policies, and said there would be a recession. After a year in the doldrums, the economy has since recovered, and Mexico never drew all of the emergency loan. It even repaid money ahead of schedule.

There has been a grovelling apology from the Korean President over the scale of the crisis and some rotten investment banks have been closed. But essentially there has been no Mexican style mea cul-

be greatly enhanced in the hands of those with access to limitless capital. Christie's is not much evidence of South Korea taking there he shead of next week's president own decisions. there be ahead of next week's presidential election. The question is whether whoever is installed then will make it plain that badly needed reform of the banking system and corporate sector will take place. The precedent set by worker unrest a year ago over modest proposals for labour market reform is not encouraging.

If South Korea does remain unwilling to bite the bullet, it will call into question the purpose of the emergency loan. The IMF is proud of its ability to respond quickly to crises, but this year it has all but exhausted its emergency fund with credits for Thailand and Indonesia as well as Korea. It should not have been so swift to agree to the Korean request.

Now that it has done so, it finds itself in an awkward situation. Should it carry on disbursing the loan even if the country does not implement the tough conditions properly, throwing good money after bad? Or should it halt the loan whatever the political and economic consequences of doing so?

In the end, it boils down to how much worse the repercussions for the rest of the world economy and financial system would be if the Koreans had to fend for themselves. Would the resulting loan defaults and turmoil in Asian and other emerging markets fatally damage the international banking system or plunge the OECD into recession? Probably not is the answer. The IMF must be hoping beyond hope that the Korean government will do enough to meet its conditions. But if it does not, it should own decisions.

Racal's third reincarnation

Racal Electronics may not bear the name of Sir Ernest Harrison but it ought to. He has been synonymous with its evolution over the last 47 years and there seems to be no end to the amount of shareholder value that the wily old bird thinks he can wring out of the business before hanging up his boots.

At the age of 71 he is about to preside over the group's third re-incarnation in less than a decade. The first rebirth came in 1991 when he demerged the cellular telephone business Vodafone (having floated a minority stake three years earlier) while simultaneously beating off a hostile bid from Nigel Rudd of Williams Holdings. The second came with the demerger of the Chubb locks business a year later. Now Racal Electronics, as the shrunken empire is known, is re-inventing itself again by floating off the business telecoms arm and selling data communications.

Shareholders can hardly grumble at the first two demergers. Vodafone has tripled in value since demerger while Chubb went for three times the price when Sir Nigel returned with his knighthood and an agreed bid this year. Optimists think Racal Telecom might be worth £1bn if Energis can float for £850m. But a more realistic price might be nearer £600m given that telecoms companies and public listings do not make happy bedfellows.

Cassidy ousted as Liberty family feud reaches bitter climax

Denis Cassidy was yesterday ousted from his post as chairman of the luxury department store Liberty in the bloody climax of a bitter feud among members of the store's Andrew Verity reports, Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty united with her former nemesis, corporate financier Brian Myerson, to vote out Mr Cassidy.

The Stewart-Liberty family as yesterday attacked by members of a rival branch of the Liberty dynasty for "trampling on the Liberty flower" as it staged a shareholders' coup against a chairman who said his real sin was to be too independent to tolerate.

Rebei shareholders led by Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty, a descendant of the store's founder, gained 10.9 million votes in favour of three resolutions to remove Mr Cassidy and install Brian Myerson, a South African corporate financier, and Odile Griffith, Mrs Stewart-Liberty's financial hviser, as directors. Votes

against totalled 8.7m. Andrew Garety, a serving director who has been appointed chairman in Mr Cassidy's place, said: "The Board regrets the departure of Denis Cassidy, who has played a vital part in leading the team

d shares soar

approach

that has turned the business around. It is my first concern that we try to avoid further disruption to Liberty.7

A decision to abstain by the Merchant Navy Ratings' Pension Fund, which holds a 5 per cent stake in the store, assured Mr Myerson and Odile Griffith, Mrs Stewart-Liberty's financial adviser, victory. They won a resolution to oust Mr Cassidy with a majority of votes cast. Two further resolutions, giving non-executive directorships to Mr Myerson and Ms Griffith, were also car-Sitting stoney-faced at yes-

terday's egm with Mr Myerson. Mrs Stewart-Liberty resisted repeated calls to tell other shareholders her corporate strategy. The two this year reconciled past differences to form a "Concert Party" which controls 47 per cent of shareholders' votes at the London-based department

In a swipe at Mr Myerson, Anthony Blackmore, a shareholder descended from another member of the Liberty clan, said; "It is quite unacceptable that Mr Myerson and his colleagues should decline to say what they intend to do. I don't think [Myerson] is qualified to sit in the boardroom. I want to improve Liberty by retailing and not by pushing bits of paper around the City." Another shareholder said of Mr Myerson's silence: "This is a very arro-

gant way to behave." Facing the prospect of being removed as chairman, Denis Cassidy, a former chief executive of Bhs, accused the rebel shareholders of seeking to acquire control of Liberty without paying a premium. "The real victim here is not me but the company, corporate governance and shareholder democracy.

He added that both Mrs Stewart-Liberty and Mr Myerson had failed to honour assurances given as a condition of his appointment that they would not interfere with the running of the business. "Perhaps, in their view, I am too independent," he said.

Mr Cassidy also warned that the four other members of the board, who have given him unanimous support. would reject a demand, floated by the Concert Party, for Mr Myerson and Ms Griffith to become co-chairmen. The latest episode of the

family feud at Liberty was ostensibly over a plan by the board to expand the company's flagship Regent Street store. The plan was to utilise 50,000 square feet of unused space to compete with West End rivals such as Harrods and Harvey Nichols.

Mr Myerson and Mrs Stewart-Liberty claimed to be annoved at the £43m investment required, against Liberty's market capitalisation of £07m. They have also objected to the closing of regional branches. Mr Cassidy yesterday said Mr Myerson had backed both the branch closures and the size of

Harvey Nichols shares slump



Harvey Nichols, the Knightsbridge department store made famous by Edina and Patsy from 'Absolutely Fabulous' (right), had an absolutely ghastly day yesterday as news of a slowdown in pre-Christmas sales wiped almost II per cent off its value. Shares in the company slumped 23p to 193p as the company reported that sales growth in the first nine weeks of the second half had slowed to only 3 per cent. Joseph Wan, the group's colourful chief executive, called the performance 'disappointing', but said that he was still 'optimistic' about the Christmas period. While trading at group's new store in Leeds is improving, sales at the flagship Knightsbridge shop are slowing, leading to the likelihood of sharp markdowns in the January sales, said Mr

Wan. Part of the problem is the strong pound which has deterred overseas customers from spending. The retailer makes around a fifth of its sales from outside the UK. The news of disappointing current sales growth came as the company reported a 24 per cent rise in first half turnover to £60.9m and pre-tax profits 10 per cent ahead to £6.1m, boosted by a first time contribution from the Oxo Tower restaurant and a full year's trading from the Leeds shop. Mr Wan said he planned to open another two department stores in the UK and a further four restaurants. Mr Wan said he was 'within a few months' of announcing the next department store, which will be located either in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or Manchester.

investment column, page 24

Stock Exchange moves to thwart

New Year's Eve manipulation of FTSE

Exports pick up despite the strength of sterling

Export orders have improved despite the strength of sterling, according to the latest business survey. This brighter-than-expected picture on the industrial front contrasted with other reports hinting at a gloomier consumer outlook, says Diane Coyle, **Economics Editor.**

Manufacturers' order books have returned to their healthiest level since August 1995, the Confederation of British Industry reported yesterday. Domestic orders remained strong while export orders picked up from their depressed level.

The CBI said the strong pound was still hitting exports. But it admitted: "The sharp deterioration in order books recorded in the middle of the year seems to have been halted."

The balance of manufacturers surveyed saving overseas orders had risen rather than fallen was minus 29 per cent, a bit less deep into negative territory than November's minus 34 per cent balance. The balance reporting an increase rather than a decrease in total orders climbed to plus 2 per cent from minus 3 per cent. Sudhir Junankar, a CBI economist, said the slight improvement in export demand provided a welcome breathing space for

hard-pressed exporters". Some City economists were far more upbeat. Adam Cole at James Capel said: "This may be the first sign that the worst is over for exporters."

While others shared the CBI's caution, all agreed that the latest results did little to change the Bank of England's interest rate calculation. If interest rates do increase further, as widely expected, it is unlikely to take place until some time after the New Year when the Bank has more evidence on how fast the economy has expanded in the final quarter of 1997.

According to the monthly CBI survey of industrial trends. the modest improvement in orders did little to boost business optimism. The expected output balance improved a shade to 10 per cent from 9 per cent last month, although the increase would be greater adjusted for the normal seasonal downturn in December.

Manufacturers' expectations of pushing through price rises also increased slightly. But this too reflects the normal seasonal anticipation of raising list prices in the New Year - an expectation which has been disappointed in recent years.

Mr Junankar said the inflation outlook remained very promising. Kevin Darlington. an economist at ABN-Amro. agreed. "Core producer output price inflation should remain muted." he said.

Figures earlier this week showed that the benefits of low inflation at the factory gate had not fed through fully to the high street. Retail price inflation last month remained at a two-year high.

The economy is expected to slow in 1998, but opinions differ as to whether this will be marked enough to make additional increases in the cost of borrowing unnecessary.

Co-op revamps but rules out sell-offs

The Co-op has completed its strategic review, more than six months after Andrew Regan failed in his £1 bn break-up bid for the group. No businesses will be sold but costs will be cut and the emphasis shifted more towards convenience stores than major supermarkets. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent reports.

The Co-operative Wholesale Society said the shake-up should belp focus management thinking and investment priorities. Management also hopes that the criew will help change the Co-op's image as an old-fashioned, humbering under-achiever.

Announcing the changes.

the CWS chief executive Graham Melmoth said: "Now that the distractions of the first half of 1997 are behind us, we can set our agenda and focus the CWS on a new direction." The decision not to discard

any of the Co-op's disparate array of businesses means it will retain interests in food retailing. funerals, farming, travel, banking, insurance and opticians. However a number of

changes will be made: No more superstores will be developed and the CWS's 20 superstores may be sold if their performance does not improve. Rival superstore groups have already been buying some stores from the Co-op movement.

 The number of food-based convenience stores will be increased from the current 50 outlets to 300-350. No cost of this programme has been released. • The 300 mid-sized supermarkets will be retained and the

Co-op will continue to concentrate these outlets on markets towns.

 The Co-op dividend card will be rolled out nationally to all of the group's 700 food stores in the New Year and to other businesses on a trial basis. · Around £10m of costs will be

cut from the CWS supermarket supply chain, which is seen as inefficient compared to the major supermarkets groups. Additional funds will be allocated to the CWS operations in funerals, farming and travel, which have been underinvested. It plans to grow market share in funerals.

 Several management changes have been made, including the appointment of Malcolm Hepworth as retail controller. He replaces Allan Green, who was sacked for his part in Andrew Regan's break-up bid last spring. · Merryu Pedeln, recently appointed chief executive of the

Co-operative Bank, will join the CWS executive with responsibility for financial services.

Commenting on the review The Stock Exchange CWS director Bill Shannon said a reshaped, better performing Co-op would help protect the business from the unwanted approaches of predators such as Andrew Regan. "The best way of deterring another Andrew Regan is to show that we can add real value by being a Co-up. We are not relying on rule changes to proteet us. We intend to demonstrate that there is a clear difference hetween the Co-op approach and those of others."

Graham Melmoth added: "The CWS will play to its strengths and build on those businesses which benchmark well with their peers." The review was undertaken by LEK, the corporate strategy group and BDDH, the communications consultants.

moved yesterday to Yesterday's decision was

tackle problems with Sets, its new electronic order driven trading system. It has modified New Year's Eve trading rules, and intends to crack down on market abuse. Leg Paterson reports.

The London Stock Exchange will close at 12.10pm on New Year's Eve, the same time as the London International Financial and Futures Exchange (Liffe) and 30 minutes earlier than usuat. A special pricing formula will be used on New Years' Eve to calculate closing prices.

The Exchange is also planning to strengthen its rules on price manipulation, following claims last week that two JP Morgan traders had tried to fix the FTSE 100 index.

prompted by heavy criticism of Sets, the order-driven trading system launched at the end of October. At certain times of the day, particularly in the late afternoon and early morning, very few orders are placed on the Exchange's new order book and very few trades are conducted. This socalled lack of liquidity makes it easier for a small number of trades to distort the FTSE 100 index. in particular, there have been several instances of "rogue", or unrepresentative, closing prices, both for individual stocks and for

the FTSE itself. Concerns had been voiced that if the level of the FTSE were distorted on New Year's

Eve, traditionally a very thin trading day, there could be serious finanical repercussions. Closing New Year's Eve prices are used, among other things,

to calculate fund valuations. The Exchange took two steps yesterday to try and head off the problem of rogue closing prices on December 31. First, the Exchange will shut at the same time as Liffe. Typically, trading is particularly thin on the London stock market once Liffe has shut.

Second, the Exchange plans to use a special formula to calculate closing New Year's Eve prices. This formula will "enable the Exchange to strike out anomalous closing prices for the purpose of valuation and index calculation," the Exchange

said vesterday in a statement. Final details of the formu-

la will not be revealed before next week, after the Exchange has had an opportunity to consult with market particpants. But it is thought that the formula will be similar to the "uncrossing" that happens at the beginning of the trading day. At 8.30am an "uncrossing" process matches all buy and sell orders inputted between Kam and 8.30am against one another. A similar process at the end of the day should help prevent trades being executed at rogue prices.

The Exchange also moved yesterday to tighten up its rules on market manipulation. At present, when there is an illiquid market naking it easy to distent the FTLE conditions are ripe for marke. Guse, as illustrated by claims of FTSE manipulation two weeks ago.

Pfizer creates 1,000 jobs but Siemens thinks again in Tyneside

Pfizer, the US drugs giant, confirmed yesterday that it is investing £109m in a new research facility in Sandwich, Kent in a government backed move which will create 1,000 new British jobs in the next five years. However, Siemens, the German engineering and electronics giant, has abandoned plans to create up to 600 more jobs at its computer chip plant on North Tyneside after a new crash in global semi-conductor prices. Sameena Ahmad in London and Chris Godsmark in Munich report.

Pfizer's decision to expand its existing research facility in Kent was hailed by Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, as

the investment by Pfizer showed "Britain's historic science base

really is a priceless asset". Pfizer which receives a £3m grant from the Department of Trade and a £2.5m contribution from English Partnerships is considering an additional £241m investment in the next three years to expand its research facilities, and for a new manufacturing plant and warehousing. Ken Moran, chairman of Pfizer Limited, the UK subsidiary of the US group called the UK was "the healthcare innovation centre of Europe."

Ms Beckett defended her deeven though Pfizer has been operating in the UK since 1951 and already employs 3,400 people. "Pfizer could have put its investment in a number of other countries including the US," she said. Pfizer said the grant was a 'significant factor", in its decision to expand in the UK.

Though Ms Beckett boasted yesterday that Britain "has up a new plant." Instead Siemens rency from October, 1999.

inward investment than any com- out of the first hall, opened by the parable country of its size," not everything is going the Government's way. When Siemens revealed its £1.1bn investment the Korean clongomerate, to programme for Tyneside in 1995 cancel £350 million expansion the original intention was to build two manufacturing halls,

site, the price of computer memory chips crashed by as much as toll on Siemens results yesterday 80 per cent, forcing the compamy to review its world wide inplans. When semi-conductor prices staged a 30 cision to award the £3m grant per cent recovery in the spring, Siemens pledged to press ahead with the second stage of the plant. But the group pointed yesterday to a new slide in prices.

Heinrich von Pierer, point, a trough. That is why it

investment into Britain. She said attracted far more of the world's has squeezed more production Queen in May.

The move follows hot on the heels of the decision by Samsung. plans at its Teesside manufacturing base. Toyota also concreating 1,800 new jobs in one of firmed this week that it had the UK's most depressed rechosen France and not Britain as gions. But as work began on the the site to build a new small car.

The chip price crash took its with profits at its semi-conductor divisions in the year to September dropping from DM603m to DM109m Siemens's overall profits in its 150th anniversary year nave 5 per cent after tax to DM2.6bn.

It also emerged that the company has delayed for six months holding single currency seminars with many of its 13,000 UK Siemens's chief executive, said: suppliers. They have been asked "It's always been a cyclical mar- to adopt voluntarily the euro for ket and the cycle is now at a low transactions with Siemens UK companies, which will prepare would not have been wise to start their accounts in the single cur-

HomePro Offers End



Margaret Beckett: Pfizer's decision hailed as 'a vote of confidence' for inward investment into Britain

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42 UK Showrooms

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Hedge End Retai

Park, Toll Bar Way,

Southampton

HUNTINGDÓN

Huntingdon Retail

IPSWICH

Sandlines Retail Park

KETTERING

ultering Retail Park

Carina Road

LONDON

Humphrey Street

NORTHAMPTON

NORWICH

Blackberry Court, Sweetbrar Road

Time Showrooms within the superstores of

Powerhouse

AYLESBURY Cambridge Close

BANBURY 2 Lockheed Close Banbury Retail Park BASILDON

Aavflower Retail Park BRACKNELL Skimpedhili Lane Retail Park

The Peel Centre **BRENTWOOD** 81/85 High Street BRISTOL

Lysander Road, iverside Retail Park Cribbs Causeway CAMBRIDGE he Bee Hive Centre.

POOLE Manning Heath Ret CANNOCK SLOUGH **CARDIFF BAY** SOLIMIRI Sears Retail Park CARDIFF

Newport Road (Opens 18th Dec) SOUTHAMPTON CHIPPENHAM lathaway Retail Park. STEVENAGE COVENTRY Ballagher Retail Park. Stoney Stanton Road

DAGENHAM Memetends Retail Park, Alpple Road SWINDON DERBY The Kingsway Retail Park TAMWORTH Vertura Retail Centre GUILDFORD

advinead Retail Par Europa Park Road WORCESTER HAYES .ombardy Retail Park Cold Harbour Lane

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Other Time Showrooms BLACKBURN

Whitebirk Trading Estate, Peel Centre NEWCASTLE MetroCentre,

Red Quadrant. **GLASGOW** 34-38 Sauchiehall

Street

HULL Ferensway (Now open) LEEDS

Crown Point Retail Park (Now open) **PRESTON**

The Capitol Centre, London Way SHEFFIELD Meadowhall

(Now open) **TELFORD** Telford Shopping Centre

Retail Park

WATFORD Asda Shopping Centre,

St. Albans Road All Showrooms open Саптельшу орель зоол



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Bank of England obtains injunctions in fraud scandal

The Bank of England has obtained injunctions against three alleged swindlers trading under the name of First Merchant Bank, Robert Young, charged with fraud in August 1996 after allegedly losing £16m in trades executed by a UBS subsidiary, is thought to be one of the three implicated in the latest scandal. The Bank is currently investigating claims that Mr Young, together with Marish Chorbrzynski and Mark Bullen, posed as a bona fide bank employee in an attempt to defraud would-be investors. But Mr Young is also understood to be currently facing fraud charges relating to trades executed through Cantrade Private Bank Switzerland, a subsidiary of Swiss bank UBS, between 1988 and

Small business Bill launched

Barbara Roche, the Small Firms Minister, announced a bill aimed at protecting small businesses against late payments. The Bill will give companies a statutory right to charge 8 per cent over base rate on the late payment of commercial debts. The Government had originally suggested interest be charged at 4 per cent over base rate. Announcing the Bill. Mrs Roche said: "Late payment hits small firms hardest; it stifles growth, disrupts cashflow and ultimately hits profits. I believe that small firms should be given every opportunity to benefit from the increased competitiveness that a healthy cashflow can bring."

UKTV appoints chief

UKTV, the joint venture between BBC Worldwide and Flextech, has appointed Dick Emery chief executive. Mr Emery is presently chief executive of BBC Worldwide. UKTV consists of three new channels - UK Arena, UK Horizons and month. Two further sports and entertainment channels are due to start broadcasting next year.

Daily Mail profits leap

Daily Mail and General Trust, owner of the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday, yesterday reported profit before tax up 68 per cent to £143.7m. Lower newsprint prices and higher advertising revenues contributed to the good figures, which encouraged many analysis to upgrade their forecasts for next year. Northcliffe Newspapers, DMGT's regional division, has been approached by Lord Hollick's United News & Media about the purchase of United Provincial Newspapers. However, analysts say it is unlikely DMGT would buy the whole of UPN, and point out that there are few geographical synergies between the two groups. Investment, page 24

Brussels looks at Reed plan

The European Commission said yesterday it had begun a full inquiry into the proposed merger of the publishers Reed Elsevier and Wolters Kluwer, saying it feared for competition in the British and Dutch legal publishing sectors. Reed and Wolters unveiled a £17bn merger plan earlier in the year. The investigation by the EC could lead to the disposal of various titles in businesses where the two publishers are unduly dominant. The news will come as a futher blow to Reed shareholders, who have been hit by the disclosure of irregularities in its Travel Group circulation figures.

Thomas the Tank set for US

Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends will be shown across the US by Rupert Murdoch's Fox Family Channel, following a deal with Britt Allcroft. Britt, which has the rights to Thomas, believes the move will make a big contribution to profits in 1999 and 2000. Shining Time Station and the Magic Adventures of Mumfie will also be televised. Fox has the option to extend the existing contract for two years for an additional significant licence fee.

COMPANY	RESUL	ΓS		
	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Alvis (F)	72.88m (90.42m)	8.1m (8.9m)	7.8p (10.1p)	3.5p (3.0p)
Altentic Telecom (I)	- (-)	4.01m (0.300m)	7.93p (0.99p)	nd .
WS Atkins (I)	175.3m (153.3m)	12.7m (10.7m)	8.4p (7.0p)	2.7p (2.25p)
Copyright Premotions (1)	9.10m (8.69m)	0.061m (0.085m)	0.61p (0.85p)	nii En
Countryside Props (F)	195.7m (160.3m)	9.3m (3.1m)	10.6p (3.4p)	3.0p (2.25p)
Daily Mafi&Gen Trest (F)	1.20bn (1.0bn)	143.7m (85.5m)	92.4p (64.1p)	23 Dp (19.4p)
Flatcher King (I)	2.49m (2.13m)	0.144m (0 072m)	12р (0.5р)	0.75p (0.5p)
Harvey Nichels (1)	60.94m (49.18m)	6.1m (5.5m)	7.4p (6.4p)	2.10 (1.90)
HSE&Smith (F)	81.28m (80.68m)	1.22m (2.92m)	2.56p (5.85p)	4.2p (5.2p)
Heaters Armeley (F)	57.85m (54.27m)	3.86m (1.83m)	10.45p (4.65p)	
Lucas Varity (0)	1,16b (-)	84.5m (+)	4.0p (-)	në
MS international (1)	14.30m (17.34m)	0.200m (0.121m)	0 4p (0.2p)	0.1p (0.1p)
Pathiliner Props (1)	15.86m (-)	0.115m (-)	- (-)	nd .
Rasal (I)	596.4m (602 04m)	9.2m (21.2m)	1.99p (4.78p)	21p (21p)
Relieuce Security (i)	57.78m(49.42m)		6.3p (3.3p)	1.85p (1.75p)
Stated Diagnostics (1)	3.45bn (2.72bn)	0.271m (0.291m)		pi
Titoo (F)	11.95m (1 ï 74m)	1.537m (1.728m)		(5.20) (5.00)
(F) - Final (I) - Interim	† EPS is pre-encept	ionals *Dividend to	be paid as a FED	

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23/SHARES

Tynesid

MARKET REPORT Abbey National breaks through Asian gloom



DEREK PAIN

Asian turmoil returned to haunt the stock market. At casual observer of financial one time Footsie was down 131.1 points; it ended off 94.8 swirled around for much of this at 5.035.9.

Supporting shares, which have sadly under performed ment, the investment banking their peers this year, had a much more relaxed time as the spotlight concentrated on blue chips

with Far Eastern exposure. So HSBC fell 84p to 1,536p and the Standard Chartered matic upheaval which is trans-

banking group 27p to 698p. The market, however, remained receptive to old fashioned, unadorned take over rumours. Not surprisingly the latest escapade featured two financial high flyers, Abbey Na-

tional and General Accident. Of the handful of blue chips to record plus signs Abbey led the way with a 22p gain to a 1,035p peak and GenAcc trotted behind, up 16.5p to 1,054p, a shade below its all-time high.

shares must be aware, have

vear. The Merrill Lynch strike at Mercury Asset Manageretreats of Bardays and National Westminster Bank and the Swiss roll of UBS and Swiss Bank Corporation are merely the latest examples of the dra-

The former building socicties are flushed with cash, Abbey, the first to become a bank, has demonstrated the rich benefits available from conversion and with its shares riding at a record level must feel it has the muscle power for a

forming the investment scene.

strike at a major quoted group. Insurance would represent an intriguing expansion and

GenAcc an ideal target.

Rumours, as even the most of its burning ambition to use ments on prospects from Merat around £14.5bn - and has even looked in the direction of Nat West.

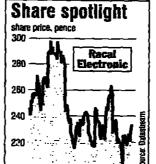
The Abbey display was helped by positive comments from Merrill Lynch, which is thought to have sharply in-creased its profit estimates. and SBC Warburg.

The Asda/Safeway story took a breather with Asda off 2.5p to 173p and Safeway 10.5p to 344.5p. In general retailers had another poor session as Christmas trading worries continued to hit sentiment.

Cairn Energy, the oil and gas explorer, was one to buck the market trend. The shares flared 12.5p to 497.5p as hopes about the eventual Bangladesh concession continue to flow. In the meantime the market had an encouraging drilling report Abbey has made no secret to dwell on and positive com-

its market clout - it is capitalised Till. But Enterprise Oil tumbled 25.5p to 582.5p. Technical problems forcing the suspension of drilling at its Italian Monte Foi field and worries about the crude price did the damage.

Lasmo lost 10.75p to 261.25p. Railtrack remained on the down line, off a further 53p to 943p following the regulator's threatened review.



DJFMAMJJASOND

Orange, the mobile tele- the market's under card playphone group, felt the impact ers created interest. ILP, a of Societe Generale Strauss Turabuil

packaging group, rose 5.5p to

29.5p on a bid approach and

electronics group Plasmac

rose 40p to 225p on the

agreed £11m offer from Arlen

for engineer Triplex Lloyd

provided a 34p uplift to

263.5p. After hours Armour

Trust, the car accessories

group, said bid talks had

ended; the shares, 21p, will go

Newcomer the Autologic

transport group motored to

264.5p from a 250p placing.

The Symer garages chain end-

ed at 231.5p against a 230p

placing. Bovis Homes, which

arrived on Wednesday at

200p, fell to 188.5p in a house

building sector weighed down

by worries that the house

Che Yild PFECode

3.9 _ 200

Prices are in seering except where scated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared gross in large 5.7 FRS identified as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (PFE) ratio is the shareprice.

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price spiral was over.

Talks about a possible bid

at 230p a share.

lower today.

sell advice, falling 10p to 250p. Racal Electronic rose 14p to 234.5p as chairman Sir Ernest Harrison plucked his third demerger out of the hat. He intends to float Racal's remaining telecoms operations and sell its loss-

making data products side. The telephony share sale will follow similar exercises featuring Vodafone and Chubb Security (now owned

by Williams). RJB Mining gave up half of Wednesday Tony Blair inspired rise, ending at 250p. and Christie's International. the fine art auctioneer, surrendered 14p of the take over fuelled advance to end at

Take over action among

TAKING STOCK

General Industries, sold at 25p a share, is due to appear on AIM today. Headed by Richard Wollenberg, who runs Cardiff Property, it is the latest startup aiming to offer support to up-and-coming companies. The four directors have 31 per cent of the capital and fund manager Jupiter Asset Management has taken a 15 per cent stake.

Industrial Control Services jumped 8p to 49p as the Trevor Wheatley inspired revamp got underway. The shares were 146.5p in September, before estimated half year losses of £27m became apparent. There are hopes of profits in the second half year. To belp stabilise the company shares are being sold at 30p to raise £32.1m. Mr Wheatley, former head of Control Techniques, becomes chairman, investing £1.5m.

To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 0991 - 201 200.

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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Daily Mail reaps its rewards

Lord Rothermere has been pouring money into the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday at the expense of Lord Hollick's rival Express newspapers for such a long time, that it is high time he started reaping the rewards.

Yesterday, there were rewards aplenty for all investors, with pre-tax profit for the year to September ahead 68 per cent to £143.7m. That inspired virtually every analyst in town to upgrade their forecasts. The price of the company's A shares - not controlled by Lord Rothermere – rose 67.5p to 1875p.

Newspapers were the main impetus for growth. Newsprint prices fell 18 per cent on average and advertising revenues across the two national papers and the Evening Standard rose 12 per cent. Much of the advertising growth came from yield - extracting more money per ad - enabling the company to squeeze the maximum cash out of advertisers without having to spend more on extra pages.

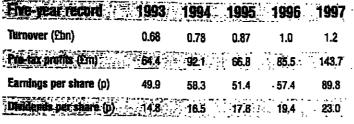
Northcliffe Newspapers, the regional paper division, also had a good year and, like the nationals, managed to improve circulations. Advertising revenues were also ahead 13 per cent. Much of Northcliffe's future performance depends on whether it responds to United News & Hollick's regional titles, United Provincial Newspapers. Such a move could prove whole of UPN looks unlikely given a lack away in the medium term. of synergies between the two companies.

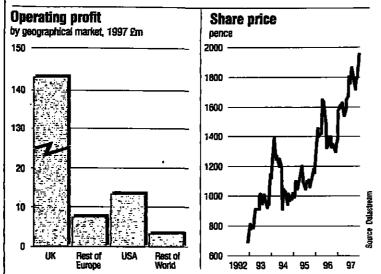
Apart from Euromoney Publications, the specialist magazines and con- Atkins deserves ference business which announced record results earlier in the year. a higher rating DMGT's other divisions have a slightly less certain future.

regulators in the UK so far. While its tie up with Chris Evans to bid for the produced compound earnings growth North West radio franchise could lead to further involvement with the DJturned-radio magnate, further opportunities in UK radio look scarce. However, DMG Radio has approached programmes for example. the Radio Authority about buying a further 14 per cent of in Essex Radio. If approved, the move would lead to a cent of the group. It is also flirting such as Serco, Atkins' shares are on a somewhat dangerously with television pitifully low rating.

Daily Mail & General Trust: At a glance

Market value: £18.8bn, share price (A) £18.75 (+67.5p)





yesterday.

True, Atkins hasn't been around as

Nevertheless, on the evidence of its

interim figures, Atkins deserves better.

The 31 per cent jump in operating prof-

its to £8.4m, achieved on a 14 per cent

rise in turnover, was almost entirely the

tor for about half its revenues. But the

private element is growing faster, as is

Atkins still relies on the public sec-

result of organic growth.

long as Serco. It is also less exposed to

via its local cable venture, Channel One. Teather & Greenwood forecasts Media's approaches about the sale of Lord £168m next year. That would leave the company on a forward p/e ratio of 17.8, a 12 per cent premium to the market. risky and expensive. However, buying the Not cheap, but still worth tucking

DMG Radio has run up against the WS Atkins must wonder what it is doing wrong. In the past, the group has of about 25 per cent a year. It operates in the fast-growing areas of outsourcing and facilities management - running prisons, managing road building

The company has £74m of net cash on its balance sheet - less than half of which belongs to its customers. Yet takeover, as DMG already owns 27 per compared to more established peers dustry expertise- as growth areas.

of activity, and argues that Atkins has plenty of good ideas for its spare cash. Brokers are forecasting full year profits of £20m, putting the shares on a forward p/e ratio of just 18. Given Atkins' track record and growth prospects, a rerating looks overdue. Cheap.

Disaster at **Harvey Nichols**

Absolutely disastrous. That's the verdict on Harvey Nichols' share price since its unfortunate investors were persuaded to buy into its over-hyped and over-priced flotation. The fashion store beloved of ab-fab Knightsbridge ladies was launched at 270p in April last year to much puff.

The shares soared to over 370p putting them on a ridiculous rating of almost 40 times earnings - before deflating as investors started to worry about the group's expansion plans. When they fall, go-go stocks fall hard.

Yesterday's news of just 3 per cent sales growth in the first nine weeks of the second half, sent Harvey Nicks' share price crashing 23.5p to 193p. Though the group refuses to split out the relative contributions of its two shops, growth at its flagship Knightsbridge store appears to be slowing. The strong pound put off overseas shoppers, which account for around a fifth of its sales.

outsourcing than its larger rival, rely-That together with a general full in ing on that area for about 50 per cent of its revenues. And Atkins sharetrading as a result of uncertainties during the general election and the death holders have not done badly - they are sitting on a 66 per cent profit from last of Princess Diana, led to the compayear's flotation price of 215p. The ny to slash prices of some summer shares put on another 7.5p to 357.5p stock lines by almost half to clear the backlog.

There is likely to be more discounting this January given the mild autumn. great for shoppers but not for margins, already under pressure from higher investment in the new Leeds store. True some of that should be offset by continuing strong contribution from the higher margin Oxo Tower restaurant division and better profits from Leeds as

the proportion of sales from overseas, the product mix improves. which grew by 19 per cent despite the However, when Harvey Nicks goes impact of the stronger pound. Chief exahead with its second store opening, ecutive Michael Jeffries is targeting probably in Newcastle or Edinburgh, South East Asia and the US - where costs will rise again. Broker UBS fore-Atkins is hoping to cash on its oil incasts £13.5m profits for the full year. A rating of 12 times may look cheap compared to a market on 17 times, but He claims the recent dearth of deals is the result of prudence rather than lack is reasonable for the sector. Hold.

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

IOHN WILLCOCK



Sky staff have received an unexpected Christmas e-mail from the company concerning the recent decision by Telewest, the cable operator, to drop Sky's History Channel from its line-up. It is being replaced with a number of other channels, including the new BBC channels, "none of which offer a service dedicated to historical programming, or provide the educational value that The History Channel does", says the memo.

Sky continues: "It is important that all Sky staff who subscribe to Telewest call their local Telewest operator and demand, that The History Channel be retained on their service. "Please also encourage any friends/family whom you know to be Telewest customers to do the same."

The memo then lists 14 Telewest customer service phone numbers, and concludes: "Please delete after noting down the relevant numbers. Thank you."

Poor old Denis Cassidy. The chairman of Liberty was already facing rebellion yesterday by the Stewart-Liberty family at the London store's egm. Mr Cassidy also had to deal with some highly eccentric questioning from the

As soon as Mr Cassidy asked for questions from the couple of hundred Liberty shareholders gathered at the Institute of Actuaries in Holborn, a white-haired man in the second row popped up and mumbled something incomprehensible.

Mr Cassidy said he couldn't understand the question, at which the shareholder raised his voice: "Are the board a deficient number, an excessive number or a perfect number?

A visibly nonplussed Mr Cassidy gamely replied: "There is no answer I can give you but that the number of directors is five."

To which our mystery shareholder declared: "If you divide by three and you get two, then

you get 28. These are infinite numbers that . are the rule of the universe." A beamsed meeting then moved on to other matters, until the numerologist felt the need to comment upon the finance director Andrew Garety's claim that while the company was investing heavily "conversely they would get a good* Make A S

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return on it. The White-haired One said: "Mr Garety referred to converse but it is inverse, reverse, converse, perverse, as I am." Cosmic stuff.

A colleague assures me this is a direct quote from a song called "Murder Mystery" by Velvet Underground, which appeared on the heavily drug-influenced New York band's 1969 album Candy Says. What any of this has to do with the future of Liberty is unclear.

Apologies for the following tasteless jokes currently doing the rounds of the City wine bars: What does UBS stand for? You've been sacked. How about SBC? Sacked before Christmas. A heartless place, the Square Mile.

Church & Co, the posh men's shoe company based in Northampton, said yesterday that John Church is stepping aside as joint managing director next year, but will remain executive chairman.

Iain Kennedy, who became joint managing director with John Church when the previous chairman, Ian Church, retired six years ago, will take the new role of chief

executive. John Church is the fourth generation of Church's to run the company since it was founded in 1873. "We were intending to split the roles. I'm 61 now, but I'm not in the market for retiring. I still intend to work - that's what 'executive' means," he tells me.

Church's shoes are a virtual part of the City's work uniform, being too expensive for most mere mortals but not as walletdamaging as getting your shoes individually made for you.

John Church agrees that "our shopper is very much a City man". He also says that while the family connection is useful in marketing terms, especially in the Far East, "we're not in the nepotism game".

There are 1,750 employees in the company, he says, three of which are Church's; himself, his son and a younger cousin.

Both the younger ones have done something else before joining the company, he adds. "Usually we don't let Churches near the company until their late 20s. There are no free meals or sinecures for Churches, he concludes.

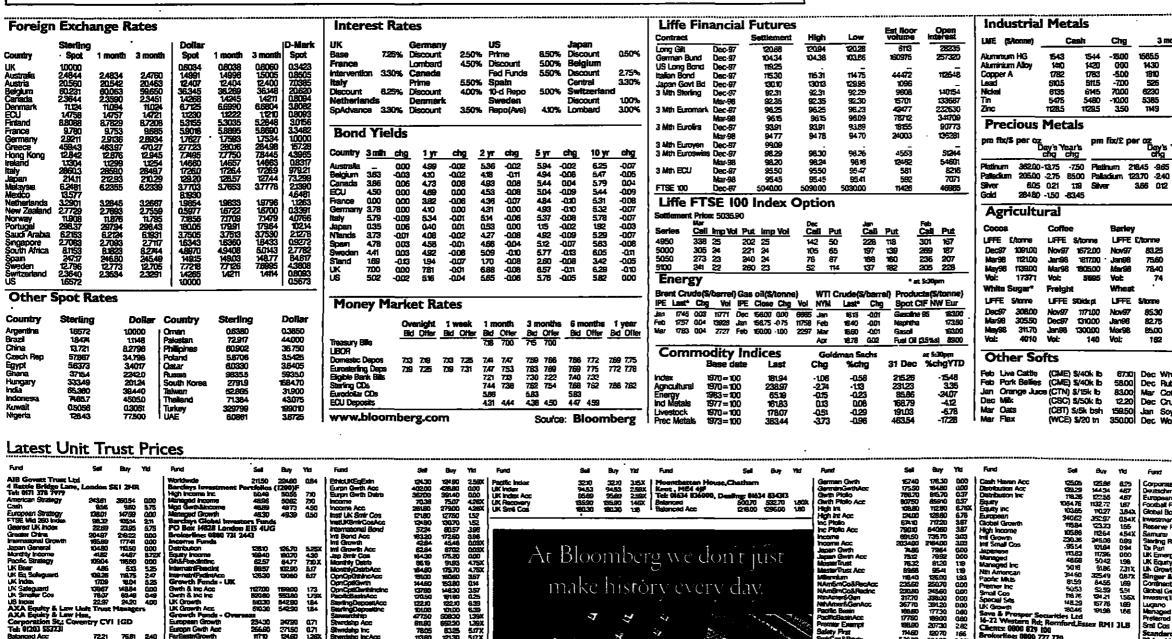
Granada has appointed a former president of Hertz International to run its Forte Hotels division. Antoine Cau will join the hotels operation as chief executive in January, having worked for the hire-car company in France, Italy and the UK.

Mr Cau says: "There are many similarities between Forte and the customer-focused businesses I have led in my career to date."

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25/RACING

Make A Stand may meet his shadow

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The Ascot event could also

One Man will not be the the only attraction at Kempton's two-day Christmas fixture. The meeting is also likely to attract the Champion Hurdler. lan Davies

The Champion Hurdle winner Make A Stand now seems likely to make his seasonal debut in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton on 27 December, where he could clash with the Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Shadow Leader.

Make A Stand has not raced since his five-race winning run also attracted the Champion was halted when he trailed in Hurdle fourth I'm Supposin, but

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	Allister Firm	9-2	11-2	7-1	B-1
1	Barna Boy	7-1	8-1	7-1	7-1
1	Flying Engle	16-1	16-1	_}#-1	12-1
	Non Violage	16-1	14-1	20-1	16:1
3	Each way a q	untr h	e odbis,	places 7,	2
ΥI	C - Coral H - Will				

RESULTS

FAKENHAM

12.40: 1. ERICOLIN (X Alzpuru) 13-2; 2. Albemine 4-1; 3. Thomas Crown 15-2; 13 ran. 11-4 fav Highty Reputable (6th), 6; /s. (Mass A Stokel, Claverdon), Totte: 2830; 2240, £150, £250. Duel Forecast: £2350. CSF: £2267. Tricest: £95.81. Tric: £58.70. Non Runner: Laura Lye. 1.10: 1. MISTY CAY (R Thomton) 7-2; 2. Scarrotts 9-4 fav; 3. Sherbadserid 8-1. 10 ran. 15, 6. (Mrs V Ward, Granthem), Tote: £460; £100, £140, £440. DF: £550. CSF: £1231. Tric: £33.20. Non Punner: Dick Turpir.

Turpin. 1.40: 1. MANOR MISO (Michael Brenran) 11-8 fee; 2. In Truth 3-1; 2. Cher-lafrivola 50-1. 5 ran. 31/s, a distance. (G Prodromou, East Harling). Tota; £2.20; £180, £150. Dual Forecast £440. CSF:

2600. 2.15: 1. WAYFARERS WAY (M A Fitzger-eid) 9-4 fav, 2. Lasetta 14-1; 3. Lobster Col-tage 4-1. 9 ran. 19, 11/s. (N Henderson, Lembourn). Totes 5270; 5190, 5390, 5160. DF: E3400 CSF: 53094 Tricast. 515x75. Irlo.

2.45: 1. COPPER BOY (B Powell) 4-7 fax; 2. Straight On 8-1; 3. Lord Rooble 9-4 6 ran. 17, 15. (R Bucklet, Bridport). Tota: \$160; \$160, \$280. Dual Forecast: \$560. CSF:

1832 3.15: 1. HOLKHAM BAY (KAlzpuru) 6-1; 2. Frontier Flight 13-8 ji fav: 3. Crown And Cushion 13-8 ji fav. 8 ran. ½, 6. (L. Word-ingham, Fakenham) Tote: £860; £160; £100 £120; Dual Forecast: £860; CSF; £1738; Til-Placepot: £10.30 Quadpot: £2.40.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Garnwin (Doncaster 2.10) NB: The French Furze (Cheltenham 12.10

MARKET RASEN

12.50: 1. HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (B McGami) 4-1; 2. Fair And Fency 10-1; 3. Estimo (Jas 3-1, 7 ran. 13-8 lav Forzair (4th) 1/4, 15. (J Best, Makistone), Totae 5400; C250, E330. DF: E5740. CSF: E3764. Win-

22:50, 53:30. DF: 527/40. GSF: 137/64. WWh-ner bought in for 4600 guineau. 1:20: 1. HARLEQUIN CHORUS (R Farrard) 1-5 fav; 2. Nitsart 5-2; 3. Finsure 20-1,7 ran. 9, 7. (Mrs. J Pitman, Upper Lam-bourn). Tota: £120; £150, £150. DF: £220. CSF: £169. 1.55: 1. MALIORITY MAJOR. (A S Smith) 16-1; 2. Dortin Castle 5-4 fav; 3.

Skeric 20-1. 6 ran., hd. 23 (P Chaesbrough, Bishop Auckland). Tota: £18,80; £490, £140. DF: £1510. CSF; £33.27. Non Runner. Daise Marshall 2.25: 1. GUTTER/DGE (R Johnson) 4-7

fav. 2. Centaur Express 11-4; 3. Night Dence 8-1.4 ran. 4 dist. (P Evens, Welsh-pool) Tote: £150 DF: £210 CSF: £282 Non

poor; lose: Lot of Leaves to State of Runner; Our Kris.
2.55; 1. WADE ROAD (J F Tidey) 5-4;
2. Tejano Gold 6-1; 3. Zebedi 4-5 fax 3 ren. 5, 1/2. (Mass H Kreight, Mantago). Tota:
22.0. DF: \$2.00. CSF: £6:1.
3.25; 1. MANR.ENO (R. Johnson) 13-2; 2. Miss Onder II.4; 3. Hoh Explorer 9-1.
9 ran. 9-4 fav Grate Times. 8, 8, (M PDR, Wellington). Tota: 28-50; \$2-20; \$1.0, \$2-20.
DF: \$2-50. CSF: \$2-498.
Place 90: \$126.76, Place 5: \$18.63.

TAUNTON

1.00: 1. THE MINDER (D Salar) 9-4 lav, 2. Friendly House 11-1; 3. Palace Parade 14-1 16 ran. 11. sht-hd. (G Edwards). Tota: 23.70; C140, C590, 2610. Dual Forecast 2090. Computer Straight Forecast. 228.47.

1.30: 1. GREY SHOT (A Durwoody) 1-3 tay, 2. Village King 14-1; 3. Welton Arsenal 14-1; 14 nar. 23, 6. (I Setting). Tota: £120; £140, £330, £120. DF: £1210, CSF: £561.

irio: £2100 2.05: 1. WINNOW (J Culicity) 5-1; 2 2.05: 1, WINNOW (1) Cately) 3-1 Hightonen Cavaller 20: 1; 3. Miramana 33-1 13 mm. 3, 5. (Miss H Knight). Tota: £4.70; £440, £540, £270 DF: £4.400 CSF: £94.42 Tricast: £2,788.96. Trio: £548.60. Nort Run-ner: Miss Souter. 2.35: 1, TORICH VERT (A P McCoy) 4-5 to 20: 1 miss Miss 15:1: 3, Defenditions

2.35: 1. TURCH VERT (A P. MCL.07) 4-5 fer; 2. Jovial Man 15-1; 3. Defenditions alm 11-19 ran. 2.1%. (M. Pipe). Tota: £180; £140; £540; £200 DF; £1050; £5278. Tickst£8614. Trio: £5190. Non Runners. arsik, Rum Customer.

i di sa Singan in Singan Singan Singan

A BA

3,05: 1. GALATASORI JANE (Mr.) TE-2004 1: 2: Mannay's Choice 3-1 fay; 3: Indian Run 16-1 8: non. 1½, 2½. (P. Nicholist Total C390; £240, £130, £270, DF: £420, C3F: £5500, Tricast; £5251 3.35: 1. NINE O THREE (A Thomash) 8-1; 2. King Of The Daven Ti-10 fav. 3. Mon-dansk 5-1. 7 ran. 9, 25. (A Hobbs). Total \$1140; \$420, \$130. DF: \$200. GSF: \$1647.

Jackpot 648930 Placepot 64550 Guadpot 62860 Place 5: StISt Place 5: \$1761

	THE INDE	€ PENI	DENT
;	RACING 0891	SERV 26	ICES +
}	FIVE COMMEN	TARIES	RESULTS
	CHEITENHAM	971	981
	DONCASTER	972	982
ź	LINGFIELD	973	983
	0891 2	<u>61 9</u>	7U
. 1	Call cost State receive. L	L, ple, Scrool	S (C)L41

÷ -,-,-,-

third to Bimsey and Pridwell in his trainer Richard Rowe, 1996 Supreme Novices' Hurdle, ed training him last year. It just having saddled subsequent National day last season and his reappearance this term has been delayed by a minor cut to the Knights Royal Hurdle at Asa foreleg. Make A Stand, train- cot next weekend. er Martin Pipe's only entry among the 14 published for the attract Sanmartino, who re-Christmas Hurdle yesterday, won the valuable Lanzarote the Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Handicap Hurdle at the Sun-

bury venue last season. Shadow Leader is 11-2 favourite with Coral for the Champion Hurdle with Make A Stand 7-1. The firm have cut Grey Shot to 20-1 from 33-1 for the race after winning a novice hurdle on his jumping debut at Taunton yesterday.

The Christmas Hurdle has

CHELTENHAM L55: AVRO ANSON, formerly a top-class staying hurdler, developed into a smart staying handican chaser last season and impressed when finishing a close-up third to Jodami and Unguided Missile in the Peter Marsh Limited handicap Chase over three miles at Haydock last January. Not disgraced in finishing sixth to Lord Gyllene in the

Gale may be the main danger.

CHELTENHAM

2.10 The French Furze

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

FAVOURITES: 95 was from 503 races (38,8%).
 BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Doctoor (2.30), Flying Eagle (2.30).

1.20 Mountain Storm

1.55 Avro Anson

12.45 **Yah**mi

there and I wouldn't be bothered about taking on Sanmartino again. He's a great big colt who needs a couple of

hard races to get there."

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

2.30: MISTER RM, a course and distance winner, was a fair 14 lengths third to Stormyfairweather over 2m110yds at Newbury last Grand National, he starts the seatime. He is well handicapped on his son on a lenient handicap mark and best form and looks a good bet at goes well when fresh. Yorkshire 7-1 with Ladbrokes, Doctoor could pose most problems.

2.30 Mister Rm (nb)

3.05 Full Of Bounce

3.40 MENTMORE TOWERS (nap)

HYPERION

GONG: Good to Sort in paces).

Left-hand, gelloping course with stiff fences. Uphili run-in of 240yd.

Course is 'th north of lown off A435. Blus link from Chettenham station (served by , Bristol, Birmingham and London, Paddington) 2m. ADMISSION: Club & Textersals £14 (Juniors, 16-24 years, £5); Foster's Enclosure £5. CAR PARK: Free.

LEADING TRAINCERS: M Pige 35 winners from 239 numers [146%], D Micholson 31-77 (181%), N Tristaton-Davies 23-206 (111%), J Gifford 18-110 (184%), K Belley 15-83 (181%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dunwoody 32-165 (173%), N Williamson 28-122 (23%), A P McCoy 25-102 (25.5%), M A Pitogerald 14-125 (112%), W Miarston 12-85 (14.1%).

12.10 EAGLE PEST CONTROL HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 3YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,688

TIME PROJECT (F142) (Lady Mere Coverary) C Barwell 109...

BETTING: 4-5 The French Reze, 100-30 Reaf Estate, 13-2 Sound Appeal, 10-1 Borazzo, 12-1 City Hall, 20-1 Tikopia, Time Project, 33-1 Heddid, Lettyfak, 50-1 Fletcher, Myosotis, 100-1 others 1980: Deallowed 3 10.9 M A Fizgerald 4-1 for (Miss H Knight) 22 ran FORM GUIDE

THE FRENCH FURZE hasn't had to break sweat since coming from treland, being eased to a walk when demolishing a weak field at Plumpton and jumping his ways last morath. The has impressed with his test, fluent huntling and that should keep him ahead of rivals in this much atronger contest. Reaf Estate, a useful middle-distance colt on the Flat in this much atronger contest. Reaf Estate, a useful middle-distance colt on the Flat in this much atronger contest. Reaf Estate, a useful middle-distance colt on the Flat in Kempton on his hundling debut in October. He put that way behind him on more suitable ground at Ascot with a stat-length (walke for more) defeat of Leviticus and Sound Appeal and Lettyfak at Kempton way this time. Sound Appeal followed up that Kempton were with a table success at Ascot and was staying on after being outpaced at a vital stage behind Reaf Estate in testes run there. She should be in the money again.

Selection: THE FRENCH FURZE

12.45 YES-NO-WAIT-SORRIES' CHRIS COLEY RACING NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) 27,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

14-113 EDGEMOOR PRINCE (17) (SP) (The Racing Hares) P Hobbs 6 11 12 R Dunisoody 28-2 VAHAB (14) (CD) (W E Sturt) J Old 7 11 12 M A Fibrgarald 420-24 ROBSAND (26) (BP) (SP Bran McGrain) G Balding 8 11 4 B C Rifford

- 3 declared -

FORM GUIDE

Even with Robeand to do the dokey work there might not be all that great a pace with only three runners and YAHMM may be able to beal Edgentoor Prince for look up the hill However, a lot may depends how much rain gets into the ground. Having made the perfect start to his chasing career when pounting on Strong Chairman close home here test month, Yahmi was unable to reproduce that form with the winner in more testing conditions (and 7th worse terms) at Newbury. Edgemoor Prince has always looked more of a chaser than Yahmi and beat hendicappers at Bangor on only his second outing over tennes following an easy introduction at Universet: He wasn't quite up to a suffer test against Ortiows and Eulogy in the much at Worcester test time but remains an exiting prospect and there isn't likely to be much in it.

Selection: YahM.

Penalty Value £4,652

-3 (accardo -BETTING: 11-10 Yahari, 11-8 Edgenoor Prince, 5-1 Roband 1996: Firmsy Truth 10 11 4 Mr M Hams 9-1 (M Weston) 3 ran

DONCASTER

HYPERION 12.30 Silent Valley 1.00 Spring Gate 1.35 Gut-teridge 2.10 Garrwin 2.45 Dear Do 3.20 Ermine

GOING: Good.

Gelft-hand, pear-shaped course.

Gelft-hand, pear-shaped course.

Gourse is east of lown off the A638 (M18 Jots 3 & 4). Bus link from Donesater Central station. ADMISSION: Cub £14; Tartersals E9; Sher Ring E5; CAR PARIC Free.

GLEADING TRAINERS: Mits M Raweley 14-66 (212%), J FlatGerald 7-50 (14%), T Easterby 6-18 (333%), G Richards 6-30 (20%).

GLEADING JOCKEYS: P Carberry 8-27 (295%), L Wyer B-46 (174%), Bradley 4-16 (25%), W Marston 4-21 (19%).

GRAVOURITES: 80-211 (37.9%).

BLENGRED FRRST TIME: Cole Na Farralge (1230), Willekip (1230).

12.30 GLASGOW PADDOCKS SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) 52,375 added

OP COIS NA FARRAIGE (22) M Sowersby 4 11 7 -

1 OP COIS NA FARRANGE (22) M Sowersby 4 11 7 MH Haughton (5) B
2 P DINO'S MESTRAL (26) K Margan 4 11 7 A S Smith
3 300 FISIOSTAR (18) M Dody 4 11 7 A S Smith
4 3F-336 RECRUINENT (23) 4 Turns 4 11 7 R Burns (7)
5 60 CHAMPS GIFL (200) B Richard 4 11 2 A Currie (7)
6 CHAMPS GIFL (200) B Richard 4 11 2 A Currie (7)
7 LACHESIS (728) MR S Lampman 4 11 2 Mages (3)
8 02-5 TABRIZ (20) P ANSON 4 11 2 Pears
9 6 WALSKIP (USA) (20) J Berry 3 10 7 B Powell B
10 60 RIBBON ETTA (13) J Golde 3 10 2 E Cabaghton
11 030 SILENT VALLEY (20) Mes 1 Scidal 3 10 2 Gary Lyons
12 Canadany (FSS) G Floro 3 10 2 Gary Lyons
12 Cachard - Hobits, 5-1 Burns (7) V
15 BETTING: 7-4 Silent Valley (4) Tabriz, 5-1 cubers
12-1 Willstip, Lachesis, 20-1 Zmabby, 25-7 others

1.00 RED RUM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) \$5,000 added 3m

SP21 SPRING GALE (15) (C) O Sherwood 6 ft 6 _ JA NeCarthy
6 APACHE RADER (54) F Marthy 5 ft 0 ... Mr S Durack (5)
F1-02 CASH FLOW (14) (D) JJ Chell 6 ft 0 ... P Carbotry
[27 TORUS SPA (35) F Marthy 6 ft 0 ... E Calleghen

- 4 declared -BETTING: 1-3 Spring Gale, 5-1 Cests Flow, 5-1 Terus Sps. 20-1 Apache

1.35 DOORKNOCKER CONDITIONAL

(CLASS F) E2,5/5 added 2m 110yds

Point GUTTEROGE (I) (P) P Exist 7 if 2 (7e) N Horocis (I)
201 GOLDEN THURMERSOLT (24) N Trivis 2 in 11

202 VINTAGE TAITTINGER (27) (II) J Golde 5 in 2 is 8 Taylor
203 MOST WANTED (20) (II) W Molecular 4 in 2

204 MOST WANTED (20) (II) W Molecular 4 in 2

205 ORYGINE ROSS (26) Mas I Wornel 7 in 2 is Social Michael
205 OAKBURY (II) Mas I Social 5 in 2 in 11 in 3 dates (5)

(CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 110yds

might fall foul of the weather, has not raced for 18 months. Jenny Pitman's assistant David Stait said: "We're hoping to get him ready to run but the weather will play the biggest part. Opportunities will be limited because he is so highly rated.

He's going to have to make up

Newbury. Rowe said yesterinto a conditions horse or things day: "On recent evidence you are going to be tough for him. can't rely on the Christmas "He's a bigger, more fur-Hurdle taking place. The horse nished, horse than he was when he won at Cheltenham, so you needs a run and a couple before Cheltenham. If Ascot is on I would hope there would be might well be tempted to run some improvement in him. If his legs stand up I'm sure there are races to be won with him, even if not the Champion Hurdle. We think he picked up a niggle when he last ran at Aintree that Indefence, winner of the didn't show itself until we start-

> 3.05: FULL OF BOUNCE, 25 lengths third to Sophie May on soft ground over 2m7f1 10yds at Worcester last time, may prefer today's more resilient surface and looks fairly handicapped on his best form. With Impunity looks to be the most potent threat.

> 000 3.40: MENTMORE TOWERS. seven lengths second to the smart Deano's Beeno over 2m6f at Havdock, will find life easier here Gysart appears best of the rest.

> > Penalty Value \$3,664

1996: Daraydan 4 11 7 R Hughes 5-4 fav (M Pipe) 9 ran

0222-1 CLINTON (23) (E N Thomas) K Balley 6 tt 5.

Jenny decided to stop and treat the injury properly."

of Mrs Pitman's two remaining entries in the Welsh National. has only a 60-40 chance of lining up at Chepstow on the same day as the Christmas Hurdle. The 11-year-old, who won the Irish Grand National last Easter, has 11st 1lb in the Chepstow handicap chase. Stait said: "It would be touch and go whether he's ready as he didn't come back to us until late. It's probably 60-40 against running at the moment. We'd like to get

short then he won't run." Mrs Pitman, who has a great record in the Welsh National,

the Aintree Hurdle on Grand mindful that the Kempton race is also on the comeback trail. He started to grumble away so Grand National winner Corbiere to win in 1982, subsequent Cheitenham Gold Cup winner Meanwhile Mudahim, one Burrough Hill Lad in 1983 and Stearsby in 1986, had withdrawn Nahthen Lad from the three mile five furlongs and 110

yards contest, leaving Jct Rules,

beaten 53 lengths into sixth behind Sesame Seed in a handicap hurdle at the Welsh course last Saturday, as the only other possible. Indian Tracker was yesterday cut to 7-1 and joined his stablemate Cyborgo at the head of Coral's betting for the Welsh National. But Banjo remains friendless in the market and him there but if we feel he's

> 8-1 from 7-1. Pipe's overall hand in the



Richard Rowe: Race plan

race is looking strong as he also has Eudipe (12-1). Dom Samourai (12-1) and Evangeiica (20-1) in the staying contest. Weish National betting: Corat: 7-1 Cy-borgo, Indian Tracter from 8-1), 8-1 Sam-lee, Barlo (trom 7-1), 10-1 Betroon King, What A Hand, 12-1 Euclipe from 10-1), Dom Samoural, 14-1 Beds Life, General Wolfe, 8-1 Cellic Albey, Sister Stephania, Cariboo Gold, 20-1 bar

Gold, 20-1 bar Champton: Hurdle: Coral: 11-2 Shadow Leader, 6-1 istabran, 7-1 Marke A Stand, 12-1 Sarmartho, 16-1 Waltha Sands, Dato Star, Colfer Bay, 20-1 Tm Supposit, Pridwell, Grimes, Grey Shot (from 33-1), 25-1 bar.

Options open for Simply Dashing

are still to decide which of his two engagements the six-year- to wait and see how much rain

Tommy Whittle Chase.

1.20 CHELTENHAM SPONSORSHIP CLUB NATIONAL HUNT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) 25,000 added 2m 1f

3 GOODTIME GEORGE (33) (Mrs M.J Bone) Mrs J Pilman 4 11 0

- 10 Gesant@ BETTING: 100-30 Mountain Storre, 9-2 Dayes Leader, 11-2 Clinton, 13-2 Storm Forecast, 10-1 Silent Capties, 12-1 Goodsine George, Usi's Work, 14-1 Basardier, Belvento, Country Ministral, 20-1 Celvino, Proceed, 33-1 Bozo, Percy Crow, 85-1 others

FORM GUESE

Bumper winner Mountain: Storm made a promising start to his hurding career, just massing out on the run to the line against Climton at Kempton after itsung every chance at the final flight. With that run behind him, plus a 5to put, Mountain Storm has an excellent chance of going one better, yet just as he looks floing malong the grade there must be every chance of DAWN LEADER doing Rewise. This lightly-raced individual won his only

National Hunt Flat race two seasons ago and last term reappeared to easily overcome Damilien's Choice and Shebang (who Mountain Storm beat only five lengths in a Ludiow bumper) at Sandown. As a result, Down Leader was revounte for the log CheltenHaur Fes-tival bumper and, although he didn't prove up to ft. he remains a smart prospect. Storm

Forecast, a helf-brother to Tullymurry Torf, was numer-up in his only start in a bumper last season and had a nice introdution to hurding with his fourth behind Lord Of The Riv-er over two and a half miles at Windsor 16 days ago. Although dropping down in distance, this is a much suffer track and with that expensions behind him he should again run well.

1.55 C.F. ROBERTS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS PLC HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS B) £15,000 C4 added 3m 1f 110yds Penalty Value £10,221

2F2-44 STORMTRACKER (41) (CD) (SF) (Tim Davis) C Yleedon B 10 0. ... M Richards

- 5 declared -

BETTING: 9-4 Young Hustler, 3-1 Arro Anson, 4-1 Yorkshire Gale, 9-2 Harwell Lad, 5-1 Stormtracker

G Lee

L Wys

.. . . T Sey

E Catteghan

R Thomasii (3)

J A McCarthy

A 5 5mtd

White Plains

GOING: Standard

000-6 UN POCO LOCO (35) Mrs J Brown 5 10 0 .

Eliminum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Caldium 9st 12lb, Un Poco

BETTING: Evens Gutterldge, 4-1 Most Wanted, 6-1 Golden Thunderbott, 7-1 Vintage Taltitinger, 8-1 Celcbury, 12-1 Detring Ross, 25-1 Un Poco

2.10 YULRORY'S CLOWN CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £6.500 added 2m 3f 110yds

25111 SPEAKER WEATHERSLL (13) (D) O Sterran 8 TI 7

- 4 deciared BETTING: 11-8 Speaker Westherd, 15-8 Potter's Say, 4-1 Garneth, 5-1

2.45 DONCASTER RACECOURSE SPON-SORSHIP CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 110yds

emp GREEN GREEN DESERT (22) (D)(BF) O Sherwood 6 11 6.
P Carberry
97:48 JAZZY REFRAIN (43) (D) L Wels 7 11 3 J F Tidey

223-4 BOLD BOSS (27) (D) G M Moore 8 10 12 JR Karvanagh 1723-4 BOLD BOSS (27) (D) G M Moore 8 10 12 J Callaghan 1779-1 MONNAIE FORTE (26) (D) J Adem 7 10 10 B Powell

STIES- NETHERBY SAID (232) P Beaumont 7 12 0

31214B JAZZY REFRAIN (43) (D) L Wells 7 TI 3

8'50 PRINCE KINSKY (28) J Old 4 11 5.

OFP CAHERLOW (20) J Mache 6 10 12

P ECHENTONE (27) Vis P Sy 6 10 P 04P-24 ERMINE STREET (20) 0 Server 9 10 P

CEPFS JUDICIOUS NORMAN (19) J Aden 6 to to 0722-0 LANDLER (37) J Norton 4 10 12 1183 REGAL ABSENCE (16) D Nicholson 5 10 12

00-50 SUMO (34) Mrs S Lamyman 4 10 2 2: SUSHI BAR (F67) Mrs M Reveloy 6 10 2

Je GEISHA (16) N Sabbage 5 ℃ 7

□ WILLOW MELL (86) J Na. 2 € 5 10 7

3-22 TUCKERS TOWN (31) (BF) 0 Sharwood 5 10 12

- 15 dectared -

BETTING: 3-1 Regal Absence, 4-1 Prince Kinsky, 5-1 Tuckers Town, 13-2 Erruns Street, 15-2 Judicious Norman, 10-1 Susthi Bat, 12-1 Roberto Rive, 14-1 Worldzer, 16-1 Landler, 20-1 Arrogent Heur, 33-1 others.

111P-1 MONINAIE FORTE (26) (D) J Adam 7 10 10

- 6 declared -- 0 DELATES -- 2 Monnaie Forta, 3-1 Green Green Desert, 9-2 Dear Do. 5-1 Netherby Said, 7-1 Jazzy Reirain, 8-1 Bold Boss.

3.20 SAUCY KIT NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f

CHO23- ARROGANT HER (241) (BF) DH Brown 4 10 12 L Wyes

■ ROBERTO RIVA (15) © Sherwood 4 10 12 P Carberry

WURLITZER (USA) (F884) Was J Cool 5 to C JF Toley

32F-15 POTTER'S BAY (27) D Nicholson 8 II 2 R Thornton (3

1125 GARINMAN (200) (D) (BF) N Henderson 7 10 13 JR Kavenagh 229-PS EASTHORPE (21) (C) Mass H Knight 9 10 2 JF Talley B

form, absolutely great form. he stated.

Selection: DAWN LEADER

he'll go for yet. We'll just have they've bad."

goes to Haydock he will be racing over three miles for the first time, but this does not worry the Habton trainer. Easterby said: "He'll get three miles all right,"

Simply Dashing is 4-1 with Coral for the King George VI: prospect of knee surgery. Chase at Kempton. However, a Boxing Day will not be made and Nigel Lloyd (hand injury), until after he has raced at the :

BETTING: 7-4 Doctoor, 5-2 Tibetan, 6-1 Barna Boy, 13-2 Mister Ris, Notes Colours, 19-1 19-19
Eagle, 20-1 Not Virtinge
1998: Chei-16 6 11 10 G Upton 5-4 fav (J Did) 4 ran
FORM GUIDE

DOCTOOR best all except Carlo Brigants off a rating only 4lb lower than today's in the
Imperial Cup at Sandown last March, form which gives him every chance. Only five days
after the Imperial Cup Carlo Brigante was beaten a length by Barna Boy in the County
Hurdle here at the Postival. A strict interpretation leaves the adventage with Doctoor, who
is being third in birthers for the first time. Barna Boy was only six lengths behind unnerup Mister Risk (His worse) in Haydock's Swinton Hurdle in May but Mister Risk has yer to
recapture that form this season and Tibetan, who beating New Irm at Hurstingdon last
time, is a bigger danger.

	-,	9g ·g	
		LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER CONDITIONAL C JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,420	
1	21-P21	PONGO WARING (23) (CD) (Mrs J K Poutherer) Miss H Knight B 11 11	lenie,
2	1023-1	WITH IMPUNITY (20) (D) (G Z Mizel) P Nichola 8 11 8 L Qui	rep 1
3	28032-	YEONIAN WARRIOR (253) (D) (Mrs Heather Alwen) PI Flowe 10 Tl 6	ugà (2
4	15224-	GOLDENSWIFT (290) (D) (Mrs S Watts) G Balting 7 11 0	Bate
5	U3-5F3	FISE OF BOUNCE (17) (D) (Fieldstring Record) R Hodges 8 10 7 T Dask	omb
6	24P-62	PLAPLIACK LAD (20) (D) (H B Shouler) N Twiston-Davies 8 10 3	ein (5
-		- 6 declared -	

1996. Beetson 7 10 9 G Hogen 5-4 tay (R Buckler) 5 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUNDE

With the tavourite departing at the first, With Impunity was left with little to beat after Aly Daley fell at Becher's over the National ferioss at Aintree on his reappearance and he came home a distance clear of Flapjack Lad. Yeoman Warrior run his beat race ever when runner-up to Bells Life over the National fences in April but it remains to be seen if he and With Impunity can reproduce that from over these fences and PONGO WARBNG is preferred. The eight-year-old is over his various wind problems and making up for lost time. He wouldn't have besten subsequent winner Abavard even had he jumped the second last clearly at Eveter last month but he atoned in no uncertain terms when winning by three lengths from Pastic Air at Haydock 15 days later. He was value for a length or two more and has gone up only 2b.

Selection: PONGO WARPNG

3,	.40	IAN WILLIAMS OWNERS' GOLD CARD C4 HANDICAP HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS B) C10,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,730
1	25.56	ALLEGATION (13) (C) (Martin Pipe Racing Club.) M Pipe 7 12 0
ż	121-50	COURSAFIL (13) (C) (Fiched Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 5 to 13
3	2213-2	MENTALOPE TOWERS (13) (D) (Philip Matter) Mrs J Pitmen 5 10 12
4	2/25-2	LITTLE BUCK (32) (Mrs Came Zinter-Wells) L. Wells 9 10 m
5		GYSART (27) (C) (D) (Mrs R Cobbold) M Pipe 8 10 10
6		INN AT THE TOP (321) (Mrs Sylvis Blakeley) J Turner 5 TO 4
7	26022-	RUNAWAY PETE (USA) (232) (J.D. Smeaden) M Pipe 7 to 4
8	Fg-2P	GROOVING (6) (Mrs T Brown) J Gifford 8 10 C
9	3P4111	SMITH TOO (27) (C) (D) (Smith Mansfield Meat Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 9 10 0 D Leaby
10	-23412	NORDIC BREEZE (37) (Malcolm B Jones) M Pipe 5 10 0
TÌ	/3111-	ELBURG (364) (CD) (Mrs Alson Gamble) T George 7 10 0
12	53-112	TOBY BROWN (13) (A Stemest & Mrs J Stemest) D Nicholson 4 10 (L.Mr O McPhail (7)
		- 12 declared ~

11th, Toby Brown 93: 1th. BETTING: 11-4 Gyssert, 7-2 Mentimora Towers, 13-2 Smith Too, 8-1 km At The Top, 10-1 Nortic Breeze, Toby Brown, 12-1 Runaway Pete, 14-1 Grooving, 16-1 Courtains, Blourg, 20-1 Little Buck, 25-1 Al-

Coral have pushed him out to

Connections of Simply Dashing But we don't know which race

old will take up tomorrow. Simply Dashing is entered in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham and Haydock's

Trainer Tim Easterby said: "Simply Dashing is in good

If the son of Simply Great

weekend.

Andrew Thornton will ride the 1996 Grand National winner Rough Quest in the Tommy Whittle Chase.

.30	CHUBB FIRE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) C4 25,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value 23,453			
36414-	BARNA BOY (223) (CD) (Lyrm Wilson) N Henderson 8 12 0 M A Pitzgerald			
440-P1	TIBETAN (17) (D) (Mrs Wendy Brown) Lady Herries 5 Ti 7 R Durwickly 1			
322	DOCTOOR (5) (D) (BF) (A Walls And Mass K ? Wheehead) M Pipe ? 11 5 A P McCoy B			
533040	MON VINTAGE (6) (D) (Alen Marri) M Chepmen 5 to 19			
42-843	MISTER PM (14) (CD) (F. J. Mais & M. W. Mais N. Reston-Dances 5 TO 11 C Limitally of			
0-3140	FLYING EAGLE (13) (D) (T F Maycock) R Simpson 6 to 3			
FF1322(1	NOBLE COLOURS (28) (CD) (S G Griffiths) S Griffiths 4 10 0			
	- 7 declared -			
rum weight: 10st. True hendicep weight kloble Coloure 9er 12th.				
THIC. T	Paragraphy S. 2 Tilenton S. 4 Danne Roy 12-2 Mileter DM Noble Colours 14-1 Flying			

	•	~
3		LETHEBY & CHRISTOPHER CONDITIONAL C4 JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) 25,000 C4 added 2m 5f Penalty Value £3,420
1	21-221	PONGO WARING (23) (CD) (bits J K Peutierer) Miss H Kright B 11 11
2	023-1	WITH IMPUNITY (20) (D) (G 2 Mizel) P Nizhole 8 11 8
3	28037	YEONIAM WARRIOR (263) (D) (Mrs. Heather Alwan) R Flower 10 Ti. 6
ă	15224-	GOLDENSWIFT (230) (D) (Mrs S Watts) G Baking 7 11 D
5	U35F3	FIELL OF BOUNCE (17) (D) (Fieldstring Record) R Hodges 8 10 7
6	24P-62	PLAPJACK LAD (20) (D) (H B Shouler) N Twiston-Davies 8 to 3
BET Bou	TENG; 15 ncs, 12-1	8 With Impusity, 9-4 Pongo Waring, 9-2 Goldenswift, 6-1 Yeoman Warrior, 8-1 Fall o Flapjeck Lad

3	.40	IAN WILLIAMS OWNERS' GOLD CARD C4
_		£10,000 added 3m 110yds Penalty Value £6,730
	125-56	ALLEGATION (13) (C) (Martin Pipe Recong Cub.) M Pipe 7 12 0
	121-50	COURBARIL (13) (C) (Richard Green (Fine Paintings)) M Pipe 5 to 13
	22/3-2	MENTALORE TOWERS (13) (D) (Philip Metton) Mrs J Pitmen 5 10 12
	2/25-2	LITTLE BUCK (32) (Mrs Carrie Zenter-Wells) L Wells 9 10 m
	1F0-11	GYSART (27) (C) (D) (Mrs R Cobbold) M Pipe 8 10 10
	21211-	INN AT THE TOP (321) (Mrs Sylvia Bibliology) J Turner 5 to 4
		RUNAWAY PETE (USA) (232) (J D Smeaden) M Pipe 7 10 4
	Fz-2P	GROOVING (6) (Mrs T Brown) J Giltord B 10 C
	324111	SMITH TOO (27) (C) (D) (Smith Mansfield Meat Co Ltd) Mrs J Pitman 9 10 0 D Leaby
l	-23412	NORDIC BREEZE (37) (Malcolm B Jones) M Pipe 5 10 0
	/3111-	ELBURG (364) (CD) (Mrs Alison Garrible) T George 7 10 0
	53-TI2	TOBY BROWN (13) (A Stermett & Mrs. J Stermett) D Nicholson 4 10 (L.Mr O McPhail (7)
		- 12 declared -
		phr 10st. True hendicup weights: Smith Too 9st 12th, Nordic Bresze 9st 12th, Elburg 9st

legation 1996 Eburg 6 10 6 M A Fizgerald 7-2 (T George) 10 ran FORM GUIDE

BETTING: 9-4 Young haster, 3-1 Armo Anson, 4-1 Yorkshire Gale, 9-2 Harwell Lad, 5-1 Stommacker 1996 Yorkshire Gale 10 m 10 N Williamson 11-10 U Gifford)? ram: FORM GUIDE All five can be given a chance and with Young Hustler or Stommtracker to cut out the numbing it should be a muly-run race. Antree specialist Young Hustler was having his first run since finishing second in the Beicher Chase is race hed won in 1995) last year and was in from until blundering his way out of that is race hed won in 1995) last year and was in from until blundering his way out of that same event 20 days ago Normally the safest of jumpers, he shift year gong to be easy to catch. Stormtracker has shaped incely in both starts this season and was only just run out of the National Hurri Handicap Chase at the Festival in March. The weights going up overnight leave him bang on the minimum and he is sure to go well if the ground holds up. YORKSHIRE GALE weakened between the last two to finish seven lengths behind Stormtracker in that race and is 5b better in Apart from his good record here - he upset Glemot in a match for this race 2 mornths ago. - Yorkshire Gale invariably goes well first time out though with his reappearance this season being in the Hennessy Gold Cup he couldn't have been expected to keep this season being in the Hennessy Gold Cup he couldn't have been expected to keep this season to the limit bast. The chances are hell be straighter than the winner, Harwell Lad, whom he meets 7b better Avro Anson was taked off in hith in the Wintbread but that came only 19 days after tristing sorth in the Grand National and is best forgotter. Avro Anson, despite looking burly, was besten just a nack and hell a length by Jodams and Uniquaded Messile at Haydook first time out last season, a repetition of which would give him a great chance of the ground remains decent. the struggling club.

FORM CUIDE

Allegation's presence at Heydock 13 days ago meant that the weights didn't go up and enabled lightly-weighted stablements Deano's Beano to beat Mentimore Towers. This time its GYSART from the same yard who would be carrying a lot more weight without Allegation in the race, it has to be acknowledged that the Heydock run was a promising pearance from Mentimore Towers on his first outing since trusting third to Forest knory at Antiree in April, but Gysart could not be in better form.

LINGFIELD (AW) HYPERION 12.40 Vrennan 1.10 Chipstead Bay 1.45 Blue Shadow 2.20 Miss Skye 2.55 Twin Time 3.30

GOING: Standard
STALLS: inside, eacept 5f & 1m (outside).
DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f & 6f.

Left-hand sharp course (Equitack surface).
Course is south least of the town on 82028 Rail station adjoins course ADMISSION: Members 2R, Tattersals 29 CAR PARK: Culb C3, rest free.

LEADING TRAINERS: G L Moore - 73 winners from 566 runnars gives a success ratio of 129%, M Johnston 59-312 (195%), Lord Humangdon 49-244 (201%), R Hennon 49-389 (125%), United Trainers (195%), Lord Winners (195%), Dean McKetown 25-399 (155%).

W Ryan 37-212 (175%), Dean McKeown 23-139 (165%). ● FAVOURTES: 772 wins an 2,278 /aces (335%). BLINKERED FIRST TIME: El Presidente (visored, 12,40), Highbury Legend (visored, 2,20). 12.40 COLD AS CHARITY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1 m 5f

— 11 decarred —
Marimum weight 7st 10th True hardscap weight. Oodem 7st 8th, El Presdenie 7st 3th, Esecurie Officer 7st 3th.
BETTING: 11-4 Vrennan, 4-1 Harlequin Wells, 5-1 Rehash, 6-1 Verophrees,
7-1 Kulley Senos, 8-1 As-ls, 10-1 French Mist, 12-1 Octden, Private Au-

1.10 ALL'S FAIR HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 5f 000000 GOODSYE GATEMEN (24) (D) B Pearce 3 8 11 ...

20002 SUNSET HARBOUR (4) (D) S Kethewel 4 67 J Christo 5 000000 ROYAL SHELLEN (118) E Wheeler 3 8 0 S Carson (7) 6

- 8 declared -BETTING: 15-6 Chipatead Bay, 7-2 Opening Range, 5-1 Just Dissident, Sunser Harbour, 10-1 Featherstone Lane, 12-1 Threeplay, 14-1 Good-bye Gatemen, 20-1 Royal Emblem

1.45 GIFT HORSE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 6f 2.20 ANY PORT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 7f

Dury Legend, 33-1 Knighterneker

2.55 APPLE A DAY APPRENTICE STAKES
(CLASS F) £3,300 added 1 m 2f

1 000430 IMNOCATION (17) (C) G L Moore 08 f2_R Bristand (7) 3

40000 AWESONE POWER (22) (CD) J File 11 8 to ... A Whelen 6

3 34-680 EMLADOTE (10) (C) R House 48 to ... R Hawlin 4

4 35-050 ESSANT (774) (CD) D Cospone 58 to ... M Baint 1

5 40000 MLROLLES (50) Bcb Lords 4 8 to ... Genture Jones (7) 5

5 30000 FEEL NO FEAR (14) W Mair 48 7. ... March Dayer 7

7 0140/ LITTLE MESS REDOT (859) (CD) R CSulven 78 7 P McCabe 7

9 257248 THIN TIME (J/14) J King 38 4 ... G Milligan (3) 8

9 257248 THIN TIME (J/14) J King 38 4 ... G Milligan (3) 8

BETTENC: 2-1 Twin Time, 7-2 Maddities, 8-2 Invocation, 13-2 Billaddia, 8-7 Feel No Fees, 19-1 Auserous Power, 14-1 Polished Steel, 16-1 Errent, 25-1 Little Mess Ribot

3.30 LADBROKE TROPHY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 25,000 added 1m

BASKETBALL

Injury-hit Chester look to Tresvant

The Chester Jets coach, Mike Burton, may look to American John Tresvant to bolster his injury-hit squad for Sunday's decisive league trophy qualifying group game against one of his former clubs, Leicester City Riders.

Tresvant, a 6ft 6in 33-year-old forward, won a Budweiser League championship medal last season with Greater London Leopards, but they released him last week when signing Ryan Cuff from Worthing Bears.

Chester left three of their five Americans out of last weekend's trophy defeat against Manchester Giants, which jeopardised their qualification for the quarter-finals. Sean Bell dislocated his knee 48 hours carlier against Birmingham Bullets, Brian Lloyd has an ankle injury and Ricardo Leonard faces the

Bullets also have an injury cridecision on his participation on sis. Tony Dorsey (bruised retina), missed Wednesday's 63-55 National Cup semi-final first leg defeat at Thames Valley Tigers and could also be out of action for next Wednesday's return. Tigers' American Casey Arena also missed the first leg with injury.

Worthing have completed the registration of the American. Joel Burns, who will play in the trophy against Leopards on Sunday. But they will have to wait at least another week to clear the registration of the Canadian Greg Francis.

In the United States, with some NBA players calling for a boycott of the All-Star game or World Championships in response to the suspension of Latrell Sprewell, there was the prospect of a compromise.

Sprewell was sacked by Golden State Warriors and banned for a year by the NBA for attacking his coach - the longest suspension in NBA history.

Billy Hunter, director of the players' union, said Golden State officials had notified him that "some sort of olive branch might be extended, or the door might be left aiar somewhat to give us the opportunity to work something out."

– Richard Tayl

ICE HOCKEY

Steelers need cash injection

The Sheffield Steelers owner, George Dodds, yesterday issued a plea for a new backer to help

Dodds has been in charge since Steelers were formed in 1991, but he has now become increasingly frustrated at the rising costs of the sport which have led to mounting debts.

The club has been on the market for more than a year, but with Sheffield believed to have lost around £400,000 in their inaugural Superleague season, they now face a steadily worsening financial crisis. Unless a cash injection is found, it is rumoured Steelers could well be out of business by the start of next season.

A dispirited Dodds, now a retired businessman, said: "I have to put my family first. I cannot justify throwing any more money into the sport.

"We have been looking for a partner or somebody to take over in Sheffield for the last 12 months and we are now stepping up that search."

Sheffield look set for further heavy losses in the remaining home games of the Express Cup, starting with Newcastle Cobras on Saturday, which has led to an appeal for the fans to turn out in their numbers.

The Nottingham Panthers. yesterday, underlined their Superleague title aspirations by signing the Canadian-Italian defenceman Mike de Angelis. De Angelis has played at the

highest international level for the last seven years with Italy in both the World Championships and in the last two Olympics. The 31-year-old, set for another Olympic call-up this year, has played for Milan Devils, Lugano and more recently Milano in the Austria-Italian League, where he scored 15 goals in 35 games.

Newcastle Cobras are believed to have signed the former Sheffield Steeler, Glenn Mulvenna, with the forward set to make his debut against his old club on Saturday.

- Ian Parkes

the World Race gets ready to resume,

Stuart Alexander reports from Fremantle on the teams' preparations for the challenges of the third leg.

The Whitbread game shifts from man against the sea to man against man when the third. 2,250-mile leg to Sydney starts here in Western Australia tomorrow. The amount of weaththe small acreage that is the Fremantle Sailing Club, where the boats have all been parked for their three-week stopover and makeover, is enough to keep a from the combination of a points less chances than we have had

week and send some reputations crashing for a few years. The gurus have been flown

in, the faxes have been humming, the phone lines have been hot, and all in pursuit of gambles to be taken. that little extra understanding about what is going to happen in the hard-to-predict Great

Australian Bight. This is not the heavy weather confrontation of the second leg from Cape Town, though the Bass Straits between Tasmania and south-east Australia can serve up some very nasty conditions, and if a southerly buster er information crammed into comes through at the right time to drive the boats up the east coast of Australia there will be some exciting times.

As the Whitbread Round television station going for a system that means there is everything to play for, instead of having to endure a near hopeless grinding down of hours, perhaps days, of lost time, and a track which does not allow so many

> Going south for fresher westerly breezes could be just too expensive, and no one is expected to go round Tasmania, as they all would have done on the old route from Fremantle to Auckland. So the game should rest on having the right sails aboard and being able to combine the endurance of over 200 hours of continuous racing with the concentration of an afternoon three-hour thrash round

Said the race leader, Knut But the real tension comes Frostad: "I think there will be

in the first two legs to go for opportunities like those which arose, so probably there will be more of a speed race than we have seen before."

And so hope all of his competitors. Paul Cayard, lying in second place in Sweden's EF Language. expects his crew's day racing skills to come more to the fore on this leg. Third-placed Lawrie Smith is biasing his sail selection to performing well in lighter airs and is looking to improve on two fourth places so far. They can all carry 17 sails, two mains, seven spinnakers and eight jibs, but no one carries the second main, so all go with 16.

While Norway's Frostad has a 10-point lead on Cayard, that is only one place on this leg. But these two have a good buffer on Smith. The four places of third

to sixth are covered by 11 points, in effect one place on this leg, and none of them are sure that they have any speed edge on another. It will be as easy to be sixth as first. lerguson pay buy ecure the reatest

And that is if there is no improvement from George Collins' Chessie Racing, now he is on board with John Kostecki, or last-placed Brunel Sunergy, also with a new skipper in Roy Heiner. Christine Guillou and her all-woman crew on EF Education have a 24-point lead on Heiner, so he will have to beat them by three places to get ahead on a leg where Guillon feels the playing field is more level for them.

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD R. Standings after two legs: 1 know

Blood on the water as Iceman and Maverick square up

The competition for places in the Oxford University rowing team reached boiling point yesterday as two crews locked swords, or rather blades, in a trial race on the Thames.

Chris Dodds watched the new man in charge struggle to keep the peace.

Oxford, facing up to five consecutive defeats in the Boat Race, have brought in a new coach in Sean Bowden, a significant component of Cambridge's winning formula before he went to coach the Olympic eight in 1996.

Yesterday he brought his squad down to the Tideway in spanking new Ayling boats to show off their talents from Putney to Mortlake - and they blew it.

Iceman, on the Surrey station steered by this year's cox, Alex Greaney, and Maverick, on Middlesex steered by the Rutgers cox, Neil O'Donnell, went not so much against each other as at each other. They had a serious clash close to Harrods Depository where blades and flesh made contact, but the came in rough water beyond Hammersmith, In the melée James Roycroft, No 6 in Mav-His rowlock and outrigger were



Henrik Nilsson, the Oxford stroke, in Maverick drops his oar as the cox, Neil O'Donnell, is hit by an oar from the Iceman yesterday

erick, crabbed and lost his oar. stroke of his boat, the Swedish international Henrik Nilsson, damaged, and although he com- threw his hands up in despair. pleted the course when the and cox O'Donnell, hailing from the land of straight tideclearly in difficulty as well as in free courses, was questioning did not shadow the race from a seriously bad mood. The just what he had gotten into.

ternoon ebb. The press launch Hammersmith Bridge to Putney.

matched until disaster struck in cising deft bouts of deafness.

Bowden vented his anger in but informants report that a their morning outing, with the privacy of the crew debrief- close race was eventually won by O'Donnell getting the better of including the president. Andrew British international Ed Coode. if his rowing technique does not ing and ordered Iceman and Iceman by a canvas after Mav- Greaney for the first mile. Both Lindsay, elected recently in Maverick out again on the af- erick, on Surrey, had led from coxes had the better of the the start. Blades did not touch. umpire, who was inexperienced

place of the British international new intake includes the German

Five Blues were on parade. international Jürgen Hecht and in the third boat, so it looks as

top guns are today when Cam-Tim Foster who failed to secure bridge stage trials. Their 49er, the British Indoor Champi-The crews were well in his thankless task, by exer- a place to read for a PhD. The Andy Ripley, the former rugby international, has been selected

We may learn who the real match his physical strength. Cambridge oarsmen dominated onships on rowing machines

RUGBY LEAGUE

McCurrie back in his old code with Warrington after parting with union

tional forward who left the game to join Bedford, is returning to rugby league with

Warrington. McCurrie, who has played for both England and Great Britain as well as captaining the Under-21 international side. joined the ambitious union club last season, but is now being allowed to leave and resume his career in his original code.

At Bedford, McCurrie played centre inside his former Widnes

TODAY'S NUMBER

635

The strokes under par by Colin Montgomerie for his last 102 tournaments. Montgomerie, who has finished No 1 in the Order of Merit for the last five years, has won 10 of those events and been in the top 10 55 times.

- but is likely to be used in the already moved on this winter. back row of an extensively rebuilt Warrington pack next season.

The Warrington coach, Darryl Van de Velde, described it as one of the major close season signings in the whole game. He is terrifically strong and desperate to get back into league." The club, who have already

made four other major signings in the forwards, hope to announce the capture of another prominent Australian within the next few days. One player who will not

now be moving in the foreseeable future is the St Helens and Great Britain winger, Anthony Sullivan, who has asked to come off the transfer list.

"The club has assured me that I have a future here and that's what I wanted to hear," said Sullivan, who was Saints' player of the year and played in the first Test against Australia forward. Darren Turner, has

David Howes, said that the at the club until 2000. club was delighted that Sullivan

Steve McCurrie, the interna- team-mate, Martin Offiah - would be staying, unlike severwho has also returned to league al of his team-mates, who have

> "He became unsettled and there was some interest from rugby union, but we have explained how we are going to rebuild and maintain our challenge for trophies," Howes said.

The Wigan coach, John Monie, is hoping to sign an Australian centre to complete his squad for next season, but has ruled out a move for the Test player, Paul McGregor. "He would be great, but he is under contract at Illawarra for another two years," he said. "We are looking around for who else

might be available." Monie has also ruled out any prospect of Henry Paul moving to the London Broncos. "There is no chance," Monie said. "I have spoken to Henry and told him that he is Wigan's number

six until he loses the job." The Sheffield Eagles utility agreed an 18-month extension Saints' chief executive, to his contract that will keep him

- Dave Hadfield

How to iron out failure and drive towards success

eptitude having a golfing handicap far in excess of your highest break at snooker may be a handy rule of thumb. The only beef would be that it is a

little too near the bone. Whether it is on the greens. or the green baize, talent will Since too little of it is distributed among so many, those prior to another, Tom willing to reveal their secrets of success will always be in a country as Ryder Cup buyers' market, especially at captain. this time of year.

ing that handicap outlast the festive spirit and New Year resolutions, you can at least take as a teaching professionceiving such an instructional tome means there is someone, however deluded, who cares enough to believe that one day you might break 80, 90, 100...

the conceptually simple idea of striking a little white ball with a hi-tech stick produces an infinite array of individualistic styles, there are many contrasting approaches to the subject of golf instruction.

As a measure of sporting in- One may be more helpful so to speak, has now collect- low, £15.99). When "Lead" is and My Story (Ebury Press, that the others, reading the lot ed The Best of Hurvey Penick not on the driving range with £16.99), Jack Nicklaus' autowould be a sure-fire way of

never being able to play again. When it comes to homespun wit and wisdom, Harvey Penick is still the leader in the field despite his death in 1995, a week before Ben Crenshaw, out, or not as the case may be. one noted pupil, won his second US Masters and two years Kite, represented his

Penick's Little Red Golf Whether dreams of lower- Book was the first, and best, in a series of anecdotal accounts of his life

turned to teaching after encountering a young Sam Snead at the Houston Open in the mid-1930s. The sound of Snead's drive, more than the Inevitably, in a sport where sight of it, started alarm bells ringing for Penick. "It sounded like a rifle and the ball flew like a bullet," he wrote. "I knew right from that moment that my future was not as a

tour player."

ed of, although no explanation is given when he quotes Ben Hogan as saying: 'All other all areas of your game. A things being equal, greens must for anyone who lifts break to the west." Far more mysterious is

BOOKS FOR **CHRISTMAS**

Masterstroke (Piatkus, £9.99), which delves into the power of the mind using "neuro-linguistic programming". One sub-heading declares: "Contextualising your anchor" what is this, deep-sea fishing? - but if as natural a golfer as lan Woosnam swears by it, there must be something in it.

More familiar territory is explored in David Leadbetter's Bud Shrake, Penick's ghost, Positive Practice (Collins Wil- John Strege (Piatkus, £14.99)

(CollinsWillow, £12.99) into Nick Faldo, he is teaching one volume. There is much someone else and on this occommon sense to be remind- casion the theory is kept to a minimum in favour of solid, practical advice on improving their clubs out of the car to take them to the first tee, and returns them to the boot

after the 18th. Since nothing ruins a card quicker than a twostroke penalty, a knowiedge of the rules is essential. To that end an explanation of their evo-

lution is a useful guide to comfort in the fact that re- al in Austin, Texas. Penick Harry Alder and Karl Morris's understanding and such is provided by Kenneth Chapman's The Rules of the Green (Virgin. £16.99). A dry subject to be sure, without a gin and tonic in the hand - much of the research was carried out in the Royal & Ancient library at St Andrews - but one treated with a pleasingly light touch.

To learn from the rich and famous of the game, try Abiography of Tiger Woods by

biography. Naturally, given the length of their careers to date, the latter volume is somewhat thicker than the former. In his younger days, the Bear was known as "Fat Jack". Tiger, coming up to his 22nd birthday, is just a fat cat.

Disappointing as it is not to have any account of this year's Ryder Cup at Valderrama to review - shame on the publishers who turned down proposals prior to what was always going to be a dramatic and controversial event - the hest, and funniest, account of life on the European Tour is presented by journalistturned-caddie Lawrence Donegan_

In Four-Iron in the Soul (Viking, £15.99), Donegan spends the 1996 season carrying the bag of Ross Drummond. It turned into the Scot's best season in 19 years on tour. This year, Drummond, at the age of 41, failed to retain his card. It can be a funny, old, cruel game.

- Andy Farrell

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 10/12/97. The winning numbers: 4, 17, 22, 29, 38, 48. Bonus number: 20.

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Natch 6 (Jackpot)	3	£1.333.546	£4,000,638
Match 5 plus bonus ball	11	£111_906	£1,230,966
Match 5	821	£937	£769.277
Match 4	35,381	£47	£1,662,907
Match 3	566,694	£10	£5,666,940
TOTALS	602.910		£13,330,728

TO SUILE RELIGIOUS THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Breakago (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £29,751.

O 😘 🗘 ●

Display of mirror-image leadership by Faldo and Parnevik

Nick Faldo and Jesper Parnevik ter treatment on a bad neck and stayed neck-and-neck at the is one stroke ahead of the Filfront of the Johnnie Walker Su- ipino, Felix Casas. The second per Tour after the second round round was hard going, though, in Bangkok yesterday.

Both scored 67 in the first round in Jakarta, and followed up with one-under-par 71s. The but saved his round with four pair opened up a two-stroke birdies, and said: "I played well lead over the South African, and had plenty of chances but I

for Ian Woosnam, who hit a 74, Today, the tour moves to Bo-

It was tough at times for everyone. Faldo had three bogeys Ernie Els, who also hit a 71 affound the greens very difficult."

Parnevik had a bogey on the Colin Montgomerie has been 10th and a double-bogey on the 11th and described the course as "very long and very tough".

racay in the Philippines for the third round, and finishes on Sunday in Taiwan Controlly of Individual
LOHINNE WALKER SUPER TOUR (Bangkok)
Second round; 138 N Paids (GB) 67 71; J
Parrisek (Bre) 67 71, 148 E Es (SA) 69 71, 141
Parrisek (Bre) 70 71, 142 E Rusnight (Trai) 72
72, 144 I Wooshem (GB) 70 74 154 H Chia-yun
(Tare) 77 77 181 M Nasim (Indon) 74 67.

of the European Tour in recognition of his five successive Order of Merit titles. Alison Nicholas, the US Women's Open champion, has been awarded the 1997 Golf Writers' Trophy, besting the Europe Ryder Cup side by two votes, with Montgomeric last year's winner, in third place.

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given honorary life membership

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Frand Grobbelaar

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27/SPORT

Ferguson may buy to secure the greatest prize

After Wednesday night's loss in Turin, Alex Ferguson may dip into the Old Trafford war chest to improve

Manchester United's chances of lifting the European Cup. Martin Lipton reports.

Alex Ferguson feels he already has a squad that can repeat the feat of Sir Matt Busby's side 30 years ago and claim the greatest prize in European club foot-

But as he returned home from yet another Turin defeat

European Cup

Manchester United

Borussia Dortmund

Dynamo Kiev

Real Madrid

Bayern Munich

Bayer Leverki

United manager revealed he s prepared to strengthen his ranks if he thinks it could mean the elusive prize coming back to Old Trafford.

Under

Champions' League rules, Ferguson has until 31 January to register two more players with Uefa, which would allow them to play in the. knock-out stages. And Ferguson admitted: "There's no certainty about it, but we have been looking at certain things and it's schamps return. possible we will buy before the deadline. We always look to try to strengthen the squad. This is a good opportunity to buy two

players, but nothing's certain." One who could be among the incomers is the Chilean striker Marcelo Salas. Ferguson has already been out to Santiago to watch the River Plate player in World Cup action, and he again rebuffed the suggestion making a move for the £10mrated player. "I've never said the deal was off," he maintained. "We'll go and watch him again, but he might not play in the position we need."

Ferguson was critical of his defence in Turin, but the fact is that even without Nicky Butt, Paul Scholes and Andy Cole. United held out against a desperate Juventus team for 84 or Dynamo Kiev.

minutes until Filippo Inzaghi found a way past Peter Schme-

With Rosenborg missing out at the death in Athens, the win was enough for Juve to sneak through into next Wednesday's last eight draw.

"Juve, the Cup Wants You." proclaimed Turin-based sports newspaper Tuttosport, striving to find an explanation for the extraordinary turn of events in the dying minutes of Wednesday night's matches. Inzaghi, who iust two weeks ago was dropped by his coach, Marcello Lippi, after a poor run of form, was ec-

The thought that the two clubs are destined to meet once yesterday, the Manchester more, next May, only grew in

the aftermath. with the Juve manager, Mar-Quarter-final qualifiers cello Lippi, suggesting he thinks the two clubs will contest the final, If that happens, United's failure to push on and

eliminate *La* Vecchia Signora may come back to haunt them, although Ferguson's reaction hinted he believed his full-strength team had the measure of Lippi's side, even when Alessandro Del Piero and Didier De-

"I don't know if this will be a turning point for Juventus, I've no idea," he said. "But I'm just not interested in that. It's better for them than not being in. They're a good and strong club. and the quarter-finals will hold no fears for them. They've got

the experience to handle it. United at least know they semi-finals. Juventus lessened the chances of United meeting one of the lucky runners-up in the last eight, as United can now only be drawn against Bayer Leverkusen. The likelihood, then, is that they will come up against one of the other group winners, including the defending champions, Borussia Dort-

nocence. Present day players were David Barty especially will have good cause to remember Bremner. He followed his hometown club as a child, with mund, Spain's Real Madrid. Bremner as its focal point. Several years later it was Bremner

A small church in the south the foresight to sign the equal- dies, but vesterday's ceremony ly forceful youngster who went ton was the setting yesterday for on to become an England international.

A Leeds United supporter wearing Billy Bremner's No 4 shirt pays his respects yesterday

Farewell to Leeds' 'greatest captain'

Fresh from Turin, Alex Ferguson walked sombrely alone to the church. "I knew him for a long time." said Bremner's felny Giles, Norman Hunter. low Scot and Manchester United manager. "He still had the same great enthusiasm for Leeds. He was a great player for Leeds United and Scotland."

Lorimer found the suddenness of Bremner's death from a heart attack hard to bear. "It's such a tragedy that will not meet Juventus again in there as well, bringing to mind he died so young, but I am at football with passion and the quarter-finals in March, al- the famous photograph of the proud to have known him and with pride. It was the only way though they could do in the celebrated hard man holding to have had the honour of play- he knew ing with bim," he said.

> Bremner was a legend at Elland Road, making 585 League appearances for Leeds between 1959 and 1976. He won two there too - Newcastle United's championships, the FA Cup, the League Cup and two European Fairs Cups. He was voted Footballer of the Year in 1970 and was capped 54 times by his country.

There will always be sadness

Anfield next for Cambridge prodigy

who, as manager of Leeds, had when a former leading player was more about celebrating a life which had enriched so many lives in the 60s and 70s.

Even Father Gerry Harney, the priest at St Mary's Church, regaled the congregation with his own tales of Bremner - particularly a goal from 40 yards against Celtic in the semi-final of the European Cup.

The throng went wild with joy, an immortal moment among immortal moments," he said. "He has achieved so much and has meant so much to so many. Billy served his country

In one simple statement Father Harney underlined just what Bremner, who had been the catalyst for Leeds' greatest moments (from the FA Cup of 1972 to the League championship of 1974) meant to so many.

coffin and wreaths of yellow, purple and white - the colours of Leeds - surrounded the crossed the great divide. hearse. A wreath from the for-

mer Leeds United captains, Gordon Strachan and Gary McAllister, carried a tribute which read: "To Leeds United's greatest captain. It is an honour to follow in your foot-

Photograph: PA

Outside the church, Leeds fans from different generations stood side by side. Such was the stature of Bremner that his name still adorns the No 4 shirt in the club shop. Several were worn by mourners - one by a teenage boy too young to have witnessed his idol's great-

Even the weather turned in the favour of those who had come to pay their last respects. The threat of heavy rain was replaced by bright sunshine but when the congregation emerged after the two-hour service, the sun hid again as though honouring Bremner as well.

est moments.

Among the crowd, a Leeds supporter stood beside a fan in Yellow roses adorned the a Manchester United shirt in mutual mourning. The respect Bremner commanded had

Is it a boat?.. Is it a plane?.. No... It's a powerboat

The Formula One Powerboat World Championship reaches its climax today. Adam Szreter reports from Abu Dhabi.

One of the wealthiest little Emirates in the world is gearing itself up for today's final round of the Formula One Powerboat World Championship at the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club, along a half-mile stretch of the Persian Gulf Mosque-topped skyscrapers for a backdrop.

The traditional climax to the season arrives after seven races in Europe and one in Xiamen, where over half a million Chinese spectators turned out on each of the two days of racing to watch the catamarans travel at speeds of up to 140mph across the

Barely a thousand are expected to line the beach along the corniche road today, but as most of those will be friends or bodyguards of Sheikh Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan, the event's patron, it is the quality rather than the quantity of the spec-

tators that will count. What they will be watching is neither in-shore nor offshore powerboating - the sport in which billionaires battle against the elements and where the former Formula One motor-racing driver Didier Pironi and Princess Caroline of Monaco's husband, Stefano Casir-

aghi, met their deaths. This is circuit racing in extremely light craft (390kg) which barely touch the water as they blast down the straight, countering such Gforces in the turn that drivers can occasionally suffer a mo-

mentary blackout. The trick is in the "trimning", where the driver attempts to control the amount of water flowing through the tunnel beneath him, thus increasing or reducing drag by altering the angle of the twolitre engine. The choice of propeller (each team will

have around 40 to choose

from) is also critical and depends entirely on the prevailing conditions.

"A Formula One boat is more an acroplane than it is a boat," said Billy Seebold. the American former world champion who now designs boats for many of those racing today. "The driver is trving to fly it just above the water, working the throttle with the foot, steering it and monitoring a two-litre engine all at the same time."

It is a dangerous sport, where slight gusts of wind can with the desert city's cause havoc and a dodgy trim can catapult a vessel skyhigh, But safety has improved immeasurably since 1984 when there were five fatalities in six races, with drivers these days strapped into their moulded cockpits. Now they only have to worry about drowning rather than being

torn to shreds. It can also be costly in financial terms, with each team needing to find \$1m (£600,000) per season per boat, and each event costing the Union Internationale Motonautique, the sport's governing body, around the same. Today marks the end of British American Tobacco's involvement and the UIM, celebrating its 75th anniversary, has its work cut out to

find new backers. The edge has been taken off the competitive side of today's proceedings by the presence of the American Scott Gillman, who in his first season outside the US has an unassailable 23-point lead in the championship. But the race for second place should be a tight one between Italy's Guido Cappellini, champion in the four previous years, Finland's Pertti Leppala and the Welshman Jonathan Jones, another former cham-

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Numb and mal runal round (Abu Dhash), UAE: Final qualitying classification for today's race:
1 G Cappelin (it; team: DAC Racing; hull,
DAC) tastest lap 57:235ec, 14150/rph, 2
5 Gilman (US, Rainbow Formula, Secbold) 5745: 3 F Cantando (it, Singha,
DAC) 5750: 4 J Jones (GB, JP Gold Leaf,
Sacholf) 5751: E.P Beldyb m (15) Em. Seebold) 5751, 5 P Blackburn (GB, Emraiss F1, Burgess) 5822, 6 P Leppala (Fn, DAC Europe, DAC) 5828, Selected: 11 A Elicht (GB, MPR ACE Racing, Burgess) 1:00.80: 21 A Marshall (GB, MPR ACE Racing, Seebold) 1.0486

pion who combines this mad-

ness with a job as a banker.

FORMULA ONE POWERBOAT

Segers and Grobbelaar to learn their fate today

Segers appeared before a Foot-Reading. Veart's price has been hall Association disciplinary set at £100,000, while Davies is bearing yesterday charged with misconduct.

The pair, who were cleared earlier this year of match-fixing allegations, are charged with breaking the FA's rules on betting. During their trial, both admitted taking money from a Far East betting syndicate for forecasting match results. They will learn their fate at midday today.

Earl Barrett, the full-back who was Joe Royle's first signing when he took over at Everton three years ago, has been told he can leave. The 30-yearold has had talks with manager Howard Kendall, and his availability has been circulated to other clubs. Crystal Palace are set to sell

forward Carl Veart to Millwall

Bruce Grobbelaar and Hans and defender Gareth Davies to expected to depart for Elm Park for £175,000. Neither has been able to command a firstteam place this season.

Barnsley have decided not to take on the Estonian international defender, Marek Lemsalu following a week's trial.

Crewe's hopes of signing a defender on loan before the derby trip to Stoke on Saturday have been dealt a double blow. Southampton's Richard Dryden and Derby's Dean Yates have both turned down the chance to join the First Division strugglers.

Wolves will not appeal against the sending-off of Steve Sedgley following Tuesday's defeat at Portsmouth, during which the central defender was dismissed for violent conduct.

The offer of a trial with Liver- City last February from the litpool caps a remarkable year in the life of the 20-year-old Cambridge City striker. Neil Harris.

NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

Yorkshire village of Old Edling-

football's farewell to Billy Brem-

ner, who died on Sunday two

days before his 55th birthday.

Leeds United captain and Scot-

land midfielder, such as John-

Duncan McKenzie, Allan

Clarke, Eddie Gray, Terry

Yorath, Terry Cooper, Gordon

McQueen, Joe Jordan. Paul

Reaney and Peter Lorimer.

were among the congregation.

warhorse, Dave Mackay, was

Bremner by the scruff of his

shirt as the young, flame-haired

Leeds player protests his in-

The former Derby County

Former team-mates of the

There cannot be many Dr Martens League players who have both English Premiership and German Bundesliga clubs competing for their signature. Last month Cambridge City

rejected an offer for Harris from the European Cup quarter-finalists Bayer Leverkusen. with whom their hot property had spent less than a week training. Earlier in the season he also spent some time with FC Cologne - both trials having been set up by the former Cologue, Nottingham Forest and England striker Tony Woodcock, who is now a players' agent.

Harris joined Cambridge

tle Essex club, Maldon Town. He scored 12 goals in 21 games to help save City from relegation from the Dr Martens Premier Division last season, and has already hit 20 goals this term, including a hat-trick in an FA Trophy tie last week against

the Dr Martens League leaders.

Merthyr Tydfil. Harris, who works as an insurance salesman in London, joined Maldon as a 16-year-old from another Essex side. Great Wakering Rovers, in 1994. In his first season with Maldon he scored 67 goals as an under-age player in their under-18 team. Maldon sold him to Cambridge City for only £4,000 - but the Jewson Eastern League side will get a cut if Liverpool decide to

were making their mark in the Screwfix Direct Western League last month. When Ilfracombe Town's goalkeeper. Ross Bellotti, was injured prior to a game at Pewsey Vale, he was replaced by his father: 50-year-old Derek Bellotti, who made his League debut for Gillingham in 1966 and went on to play for Charlton Athletic, Southend

United and Swansea City. The previous weekend, at Wellington, Pewsey Vale included Alec Amor in their defence. At the age of 54, he lasted the full 90 minutes.

The FA Carlsberg Vase reaches the last-64 third-round stage tomorrow. Arguably the top tie takes place in Dorset. where the 1992 winners, Wimpay the £250,000 wanted by City. borne Town, will be seeking

Two somewhat older players revenge against the 1993 runners-up, Tiverton Town. When the two sides contested an FA Cup second qualifying round tie in Devon in September, Trvvy won 11-1.

> Hereford United - the financially troubled GM Vauxhall Conference club relegated from the Third Division last season - are hosting an auction this weekend to raise funds to safeguard their future.

Lots include signed firstday covers from Sir Stanley Matthews, signed shirts from David Beckham and Alan Shearer and a Scotland v Brazil programme autographed by Pele. The auction takes place at the Green Dragon Hotel in Hereford at 2.30pm on Sunday. with viewing from Ham.

- Rubert Metcalf

SWIMMING

Season's best for Hickman books him passage to Perth

Last year's Olympic finalist, James Hickman, produced his best display of the season in Sheffield last night to book his place in the British team for next month's World Championships in Australia.

Hickman met the qualifying standard with more than two seconds to spare in the 200 metres butterfly final at the British Championships.

The 21-year-old world short course title holder had to chase a time for the championships, which begin in Perth in a month's time after food poisoning forced him to pull-out of the European Championships in Seville last August.

Hickman's time of Imin 58.33sec, just 0.18sec outside the British record he set in Atlanta last year when he finished seventh, would have been good enough for silver in Spain.

"That's a relief," said the Stockport Metros swimmer, who has recently parted from his long-time coach. Dave Calleja, after a series of rows. "My preparations have not been smooth. A lot of things have been going on, but it has made me mentally more focused. I now know that more than anything I want to go to

"I was really pleased with my swim and it is a good time. It puts me into the top 10 in the world going to the championships."

Perth and win a medal.

Britain's two freestyle medallists from Adanta both won their 400m heats. Paul Palmer, the Olympic silver medallist, won his heat in 4:00.68. Graeme Smith, the 1500m specialist, also qualified comfortably for the final.

Ian Gordon

SPORTING DIGEST

SNOOKER

and Parnevik

Williams reveals blueprint

the game's governing body, the World Professional Billiards and Spooker Association, vesterday unveiled a blueprint to end the sport's latest civil war.

for his part in the sacking of his chief executive, Jim McKenzie. last month, has outlined his views in a letter sent to all members of the WPBSAL

Hispian has four parts: 1) To commission an independent report to find how best to manage the Association's organisation

into the next millennium. consultants would draw up a ousted.

Rex Williams, the chairman of shortlist of candidates for a new chief executive not necessarily brought in from inside snooker.

3) The number of voting members to be increased from the top 40 professionals to the Williams, heavily criticised top 64 in the last two years': ranking list. 4) A series of target groups

to be established to advise and inform the Board on issues of concern as and when they arise. The letter is published before

the game's AGM at London's Cafe Royal next Friday where Williams' chief opponent. Ian Doyle, is expected to begin his 2) Appointed management campaign to have the chairman

Athletics Wilson Boit Kipketer, the world 3,000 metres steepiechase champion, will metres steeplechase champion, will take part in next months County Durham International Cross-Country meet at Aykley Head on 3 January. Kloketer, 24, who led a clean sweep of the medals for Kenya at the World Championships in Athens this year, will be up against defending champion Jon Brown, the Sheffield runner.

Badminton
WORLD GRAND PRIX (Jakanta): Men's Singles Group & Liu Ygang (Crin to A B kusama Inton 18-3 6-4; P Gasts-Onsensen (Den) to 6 Santoso (Inton 18-2 8-7 Group & San Jan Chi ti M Mareky (Inton 18-3 6-9 Group C: P Resinassen (Den) ti H Hardawan (Inton) 6-54-6-3 Group D: P 2-1 Kryes Jarsen (Den) ti 1 Wigaya (Inton 18-16-18 Women's Singless Group C: Kim Jethyan (Sang D) Ma Autona (Indon) ti 18-6-7 2-18 Group D: Ma Autona (Indon) ti 18-6-7 2-18 Group D: Ma Autona (Indon) ti 18-6-7 2-18 Group D: Ma Autona (Indon) ti

Badminton

Basketball MBA Foster 96 Vineache 91 Chanche 94 Mannerson 101: Cerebro 102 Denner 83 Oriento 105 Chicago 95 Tronno 102 Panderbo 97, Colden Stare 93, 4 Labert 90, San Artono 102 LA Cippers 97 Pomano 90, san Artono 102 LA Cippers 97 Pomano 90 notaria 85

Paul ingle, the British and Common-wealth teatherwaight champion, has been fined \$2,000 by the Boung Board of Control for taking a barned substance, ingle, 25 from Scarbor-

ough, tested positive for the diuretic Frusemide after his successful title defence against Jonjo trwin at the Sheffield Arena on 11 October Cricket

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP (Delhi): West in-des 79 (T Gunerame 4-6) Sr. Lanka 81 for 4 Sr. Lanka won by six wickets. Cycling

The international Cycling Union has barned the use of high-technology cycles from championships from January 2000. The UCI will issue new guidelines to specify acceptable bi-cycle weights, frame and wheel sizes Football Ult Kirsten, of Bayer Leverkusen, the

Bundesliga's leading scorer, has been banned for nine weeks for elbowing Schalke 04's Thomas Linke in the jaw. Nationwide FOOTBALL LEAGUE Reerranged forum. The 20 Jam Changes V. Cachi Ch.
COCA-COLA CUP QUARTER-FINAL FIXTURES: The 5 Jam Peacing v Modestrough West Ham v Arsend Wed 7 Jam Ipswich v
Cressos Neurosale v Liverboo!
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: European
Cup. Champlons: League Group A
Galabastav : Parms: Sparie Proposit Sorus,
sa Dorinturol : Group B-FC Noses of Femomond 1 Julierbus 1 Man Uld C Group C
Memaste 2 Denamo New O.PSV European
Champlons: Group D: Olympadin FC
Parcetor 3: Group B: Group
Parcetor 3: G Golf

ice hockey

NML: Florida 5 Carolina 2, Montreal 4 ST Louis 3 (OT), New Jersey 4 Edmonton 2, Calgary 4 NY Rangers 1, Tromto 2 Colondo 2 (OT), Chica-go 3 Pricero 3 (OT), Calles 3 Tampe Bay 0, Pitts-burgh 3 Anahelm 0, San Jose 3 Washington 3 (OT)

Nagel Mansell, the former Formula One world champion, will take part in the 24-Hour Chamonix saloon car en-durance race, which will be run on ice in the French Alps on 31 January

Rugby League Shaffield Eagles are to experiment with Saturday rugby in the 1998 Su-per League season. The Eagles have decided to switch their home matches at the Don Valley Stadium to Sal-urday afternoons, kicking off at 315pm, in June and July to test the

Heavy tog and drizzle forced organ-isers to cancel yesterday's women's World Cup Super-G statom at Val Squash

SQUASH
WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Hong Kong) First round: Means Pool & Caracta by US 5-8 FS. Hong Kong in Australia 13-6 F-10 F-12; Palastan by Mathemania 5-2 FS. Palastan by Hong Kong II-14 F-12; Canada by Netherlands 5-17 E-1 FS. Australia by US (A Harson and J Carley 5-6 F-2 Pool B: Malastan by Scotland G Sword and A Tromson) F-8 F-1. New Zeeland by Scotland Artica 11-5 F-1 F-1; England (C Walker and M Catros) by Singapore F-1 F-6; England (C Walker and M Catros) by Singapore F-1 F-6; England II-15 F-1 F-1 F-1; Singapore B-1 F-1 South Artica 15-10 F-1 F-1; South Artica 15-10 F-1 F-1; Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by F-1 F-1 F-1; Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by Palastan by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by Palastan by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Canada 5-10 F-2, Malaysia by Palastan by D-1, Australia by Palastan by P

Swimming SWITHMING SHITISH CHAMPIONSHPS (Sheffield): Men's 400m Freestyle: 1 P Painer (Both Unin) 3.5439; 2 G Smith (Shodbort) 3.5539; 3 J Sailar (Editoryn) 3.5424 50m Beachstrolle: 1 M Harris (Tower Hernier) 26.77; 2 N Wiley (Berne) 25.94; 3 A O'Conno (H) 27.57 100m breastyproke: 1 D Mew (Bath Univ) 1 03.13; 2 G Brottel (Bath University) 1 0.351; 3 R Medien (Richardsh) 7.10.43 200m butterfly: 1 J Hiddman (Stockpon) TODAY'S FIXTURES Football 7.45 unless stated NATIONWIDE POOTBALL LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION
Oxford Little V QPR

SECOND DIVISION

Bristol Rovers v Grimsby

HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRELAND Premier Division: Shebourne v St Patrick's Athletic (735). Other sports SWINMING: ASA National Winter Championships (Ponds Forge.

Weightlifting WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Chiang I That: Men's 838g; 1 A Colab, (Feb) snach 1 grk 2075, 10st 3830, Women's 704g; 1 X Fenglan (Chin) 1050, 1300, 2350 ONE HELL OF A CLASH THE NEW YORK GIANTS THE WASHINGTON REDSKINS CHANNEL 4 BLITZ. SATURDAY 11.00 AM

ONE NE OF A GAME

ns (Cz Rep) 4:5087, 2 \$ Nestit (Port 4:5277, 3 G Yseut (Bel) 4:5733

CHAMPIONS INDOOR SENIORS TOURINA-MENT (Sydney) First round: T Wikeon (US) b. G Viss (Apr) 8-38-2, J. Connors (US) b. J Fizzpe-aid (Aus) 4-6 6-1 10-5 (find set be-brisk).

CRICKET: CHAMPIONS' TROPHY

Stewart gem and guile of Fleming fire England

Derek Pringle reports from Sharjah England 250; India 243 England win by seven runs

The lights went on for the first time in Sharjah last night to illuminate a first win for Adam Hollioake's England team. Defending a total of 250, after Alec Stewart's brilliant century, they squeezed home, as India, needing 12 runs from the final over. were bowled out seven runs short for 243.

As it invariably does whenever India play these days, the turning point came with the dismissal of Sachin Tendulkar, stumped by Stewart off the bowling of Matthew Fleming for 91. Prior to that moment, the Indian captain had brought his team within a bat's length of victory, with a near faultless dis- art opted instead to find the gaps play of how to chase runs under

But if Tendulkar's performance befitted a man whose experience extends to 168 one-day caps, spare a thought for Fleming, who with 167 caps less. bowled 10 telling overs at the death, a pressurised period, when the game could have gone either way.

Sweating profusely, and with his trademark Swan Vesta commixture of military precision and the guile of the backstreet bazaar. Indeed he was just the major component in a good day for the Kent bowlers on display, as Mark Ealham and Dean Headley chipped in with two wickets apiece.

Having learnt to cope with pressure captaining a group of squaddies on the streets of Belfast, Fleming's debut was score around the 300 mark. probably a stroll in the park. Sensing the danger, India's cap-Thirty-three years old today, tain Tendulkar brought himself also became progressively extra cover off Kumble, seemed Fleming's 4 for 45 here has on to try his unadulterated dolshown that just occasionally, in this ageist world, life can indeed art treated the assortment with be sweet and he must have run regal disdain by plonking suc-Stewart perilously close for the cessive rolled leg-breaks back man of the match reward.

In between the fine performances of the two, however, Hol- England's top four batsmen lioake's men were not immune made double figures - the top to some poor cricket. Although they fielded well, and bowled tidi-

The glaring exception was Stewart, whose innings was simply a gem and one lustrous by even his own highly polished standards. Strangely for a man playing his 91st one-day international, it was only his second hundred, the other coming against Pakistan at his beloved Oval in 1992.

Content at the start, to watch his opening partner Alistair Brown attempt the aerial route during the first 15 overs, Stewat ground level. Employing a ramrod straight bat and deft wristwork, he twice drove the ball back past India's tall opening

bowlers were made to consider alternative occupations.

over the bowler's head for four. his innings, Stewart began to lose As the scores indicate - only order had the better of the conditions. The pitch, resem-

ly, the later order batting collapsed. Losing eight wickets for just 41 runs in the last 10 overs is not usual when it is the opposition who are under pressure.

Hollioake may be a staunch advocate of getting his side to play intensive cricket, yet he has to realise that it must be played with the head as well as the body, something the middle order simply failed to do.

bowler Abey Kuruvilla for four.

Far from being isolated moments to sayour, these were but two sumptuous memories in a Babette's feast full of delicious explosions. Even when Brown was out, mistiming a lofted drive off Kuruvilla to Saurav Ganguly at mid-on, the velvet plexion, he operated with a carnage continued as India's

> With Nick Knight adding his own, more muscular brand of strokeplay, the pair added 89 in 17 overs, before Knight, tied down by some clever off-spin bowling from Rajesh Chauhan holed out at long-on.

At this stage, England were 131 for 2 and looking set for a ly mixtures. Unimpressed, Stew-

wide long-hop onto his stumps.

dred mark, off just 92 halls, he

began to fade slightly and his dis-

missal, caught by Azharuddin at

Later, when England

bowled, he missed two early

catches - one sharp, the other

regulation - off Dean Headley

behind the stumps. Making him

open and keep wicket may yet

have to be reconsidered before

such an auspicious knock.

Once Stewart passed the hun-

SHARJAH SCOREBOARD M A Eatham run cul R D B Croft c Kuruvilla b Srmath Total (49.5 overs

Fall: 1-42, 2-131, 3-209, 4-211, 5-215, 6-218, 7-232, 8-237, 9-248. Soviing: Snnath 8.5-0-37-3; Kuruviila 10-0-50-3; Kurubila 10-0-53-1; Sngh 6-0-34-0; Ganguly 2-0-14-0; Chauhan 9-0-34-1; Tendulkar 4-0-24-0.

R R Singh low b Fleming A Kemble run out R K Chauhan b Fleming J Smath b Head

5-237. Bowling: D R Brown 7-0-44-0; Headley 9-0-38-2; Ealham 10-0-43-2; Hollioake 9-1-38-1; Croft 5-0-32-0; Fleming Umpires: S A Bucknor (W Indies) and KT Francis (Sri Lanka).

FOOTBALL

Plans to put the game on another planet

The Football League went into space yesterday, as they named each of the five options for restructuring after one of the planets. Under another of the revolutionary proposals, clubs could face penalty shoot-outs.

As well as discussing the possible restructuring of the current format to include a Super League, the 72 club chairmen were contemplating radical rule

changes.
They include regionalisation of the league, awarding bonus points for teams leading at the end of each half and points for winning margins. And also on the agenda are penalty shootouts between sides after draws. The league hope that by in-

creasing the number of promotion and relegation places atstake, the number of "meaningless matches" can be minimised and interest increased. The Football League chair-

man, David Sheepshanks, said: "I think it is essential that we address change. Of the 72 clubs 58 made an operational loss last year. The average share of TV revenue in the Premiership is £8m, in the league it is £800,000."

"In order to thrive in the future the Football League needs to become more market led and provide competition for its member clubs that best serves the needs of our customers. The five options for re-

structuring: 1 Option Earth represents the current structure of three divisions of 24 clubs with 10 pro-

motion places up for grabs. 2 Option Mars proposes a First Division of 20 clubs, two divisions of 26 teams and with five clubs swapping places between division two and three, 11 promotion places available.

3 Option Jupiter would have four divisions of either 18 or 20 🧟 clubs. In the first instance, there would be 12 promotion places. in the second there would be 14 and eight clubs would need to be co-opted from the Vauxhall Conference to make up the numbers.

4 Option Saturn proposes six divisions of 12 clubs each with 18 promotion places. This option also includes the possibility of relegation play-offs meaning that in the six divisions. only one out of the 72 clubs would not be involved in either dromotion of relegation issues at the end of the season.t

5 Option Pluto would have a 12-club Super League, plus two divisions of 24 clubs and a further division with 12 members, giving 13 promotion

- Phil Casey Ferguson may buy, page 27

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS thing used in the kitchen?

5 Boy found among most of elite dashing types (6) Trusted friend is to change and say nothing (5, 3)

10 Doctor rejected love rival in second-rate film (1-5) 11 Where you'll pay to cross Forth - pounds put in also

heading for Hull (8) 12 Team not bound to have a change of heart (6) 14 Material for defence in harply-worded telegram

18 Firmly planted for all time? There's a surprise! (4,1,5) 22 Some snare-drummer's back to make a killing (6) time for old instrument (8) Anger about soccer team that's knocked back medicine (6)

mistake? Capital (8) 26 New film turned me into a 27 Blade - you'll find end of it in agonised T S Eliot (8)

DOWN Man with many skills makes a suit (6)

some popular – go slowly Drunk with added alcohol, 21 but not inclined to carouse

"Demon ale" would misrepresent this! (8) Bird and dog interact smoothly (8)

Go into place, appearing 25 Is graduate able to conceal calm (8) 13 Started job reconstructing decorative items (6,4) Pledge to clothe women I'm providing bikinis? (8)

16 Muralist at work shows generosity of spirit (8) Fruit chap obtained from Irish town (8) 19 Girl wanting to catch loft-ed shot is all over the place

20 Animal that nips may cause worry without hesita-

French hero Ney finally organised in company (6)

that opening Test in Jamaica at the end of January.

RUGBY UNION

Brittle revives amateurism in plan for another new era

Two years ago rugby union struggled to accept the concept of professionalism. The switch from amateurism has been dogged with trouble and strife. Yesterday, the reforming radical. Cliff Brittle, delivered a new vision of the game which is bound to create a stir. David Llewellyn examines the proposals

Just 27 months after going professional rugby union is poised to revert to amateurism. If Cliff Brittle has his way the game in radical set of plans drawn up by the chairman of the Rugby board to get it back on its financial feet.

Brittle's vision, entitled taken nine months to prepare main professional, while clubs amateur status, or at best semiprofessionalism,

ate an England Amateur XV videos of classic matches, such for which caps would be award- as England's draw against the ed, a reformation of the coun- All Blacks last weekend, to the ty championship which would sale to other television compabe the intermediate stage to full nies all over the world of live

that an amateur league. Brittle a complete match, or simply wants to see the changes im- highlights for sports proplemented and in place by

The reasons for what amounts to a total restructuring of the administration of the game were laid out by Brittle, who said: "The game is financially unsustainable the way that we are going at the moment. The first job is to balance the books. We are haemorrhaging money, while clubs are losing teams and players because they cannot afford to sustain them. The RFU has underachieved consistently when compared with the south-

To that end Brittle predicts that if his proposals, or similar, are adopted then Twickenham's England will next year adopt a annual turnover of £50m could be increased five or sixfold within the next 10 years. Chief Football Union's management contributor to a projected annual turnover of £250m-£300m would be the RFU's own television company. Brittle stressed "Rugby Restructure 2000", has that present contracts with BSkyB and other broadcasters and entails creating a two tier and sponsors would be hongame. The top 24 clubs in the oured. But by the time the Allied Dunbar Premiership re- satellite deal runs out in a decade's time Twickenham below that level would revert to could well have its own broad-

amateur honours, and below feeds, delayed transmission of manner.

grammes or clips for news

broadcasts. Among Brittle's other proposals is the scrapping of the present council, comprising representatives of the counties and constituent bodies all over the country and instead setting up five provincial unions. These would run the game at grass roots level more efficiently and cost effectively, Brittle believes than Twickenham does at the At the professional end of

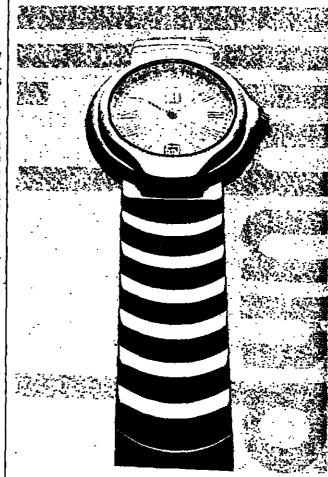
the game, Brittle envisages the formation of Club England which would be administered by a small board of experts. There would be a rationale

- yet to be worked out - to limit the number of overseas players currently playing top flight club rugby to the detriment of home-bred players. The whole paper, which was

sent out to RFU council members yesterday, would have to be put to the 1998 AGM or an SGM, but in the meantime Brittle is happy to compromise and adapt. All he insists upon "We have wasted the last

two years," Brittle said, referring to the time that has elapsed since the International Board announced the abandonment of the concept of amateurism, with no concrete plan being introduced to restructure the game and embrace the professional age in a commercial

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Opublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and princed at Mirror Colour Print, St

*. . . Back issues available from Hestoric Newspapers, 01988 840370. turday 12 December 1997 Repoteted as a newspaper with the Post Office

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احكتان الاحل

Story about avoiding booze is gossip (6)
3 Slow pieces of music -

bling a marble slab but coming

on like plasticine, made stroke-

play difficult, particularly once

the hardness had gone from the

ball, which as it dirtied with use.

Having helped guide an ap-

prehensive looking Graeme

Hick through the early stages of

momentum. Having scratched

about early on. Hick eventual-

ly made 32, including a tower-

ing straight six off the impressive

Chauhan, before dragging a

tloodlights.

difficult to pick up under the a somewhat inappropriate end to

There is also a plan to cre-

ern hemisphere unions."

casting company in place. The spin-offs for RFU TV would rake in a lot of cash, from

is that something is done.